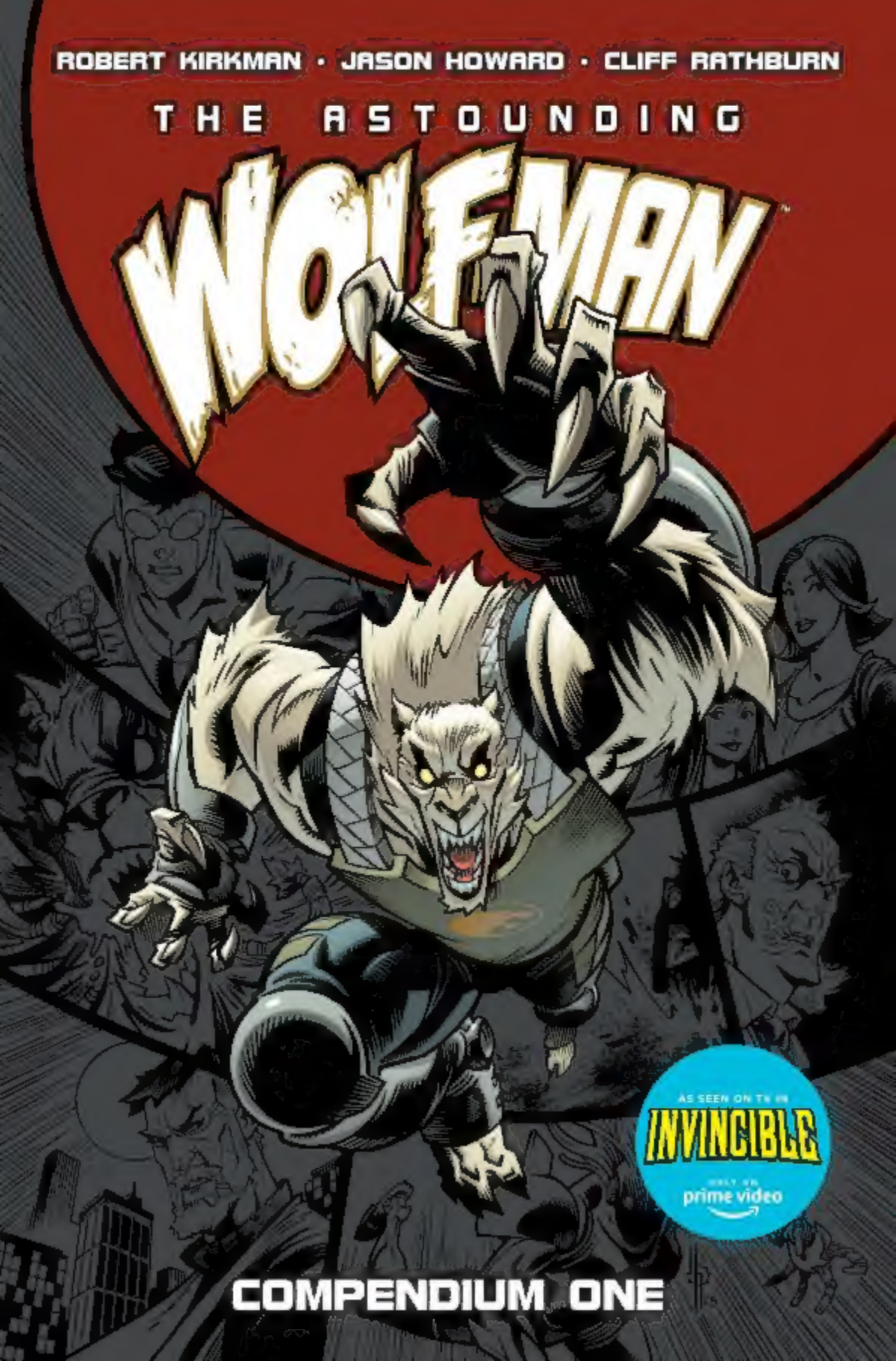
ROBERT KIRKMAN · JASON HOWARD · CLIFF RATHBURN

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN



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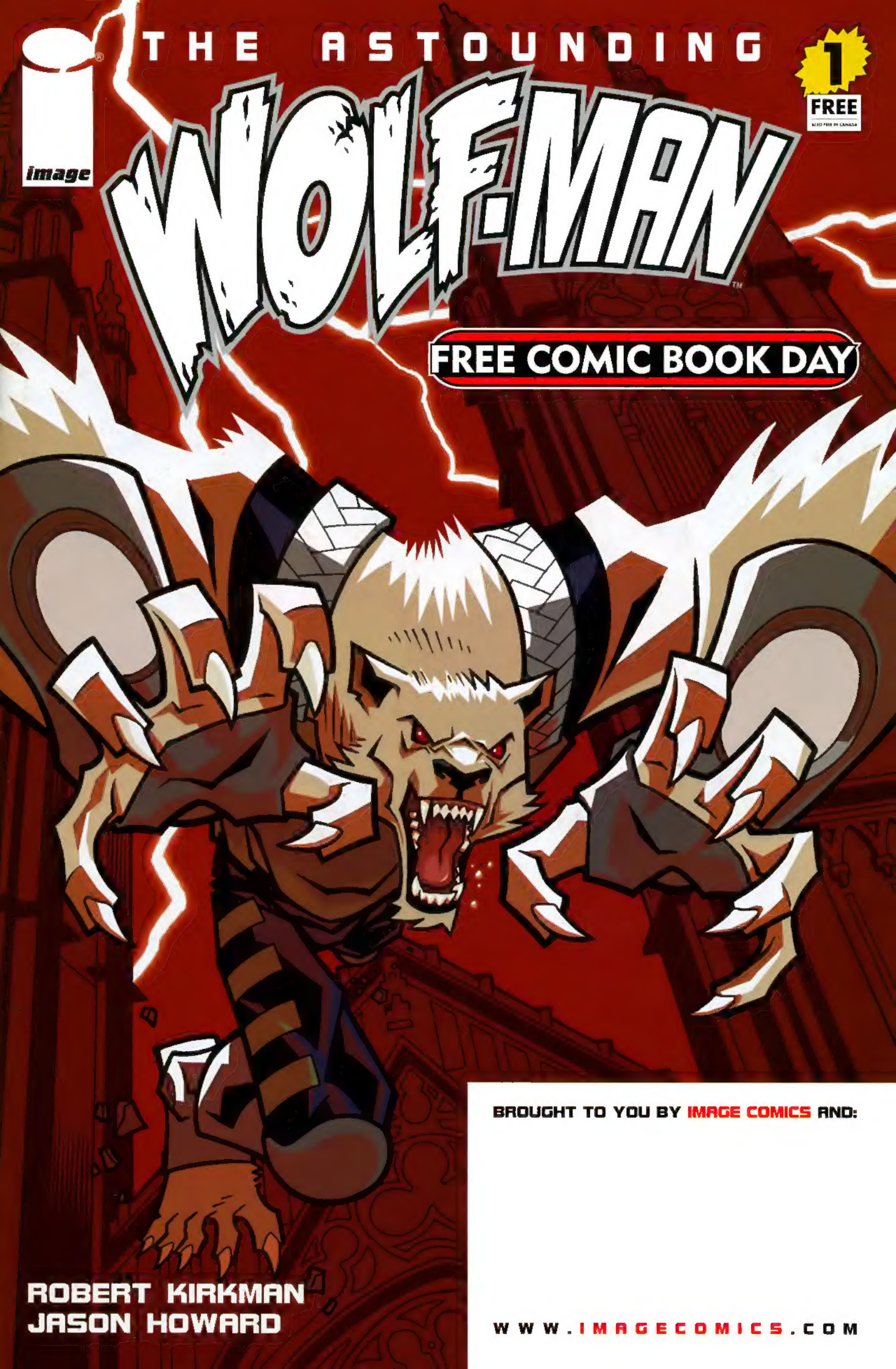
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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN™

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created by ROBERT KIRKMAN & JASON HOWARD

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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN #1. May 2007. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 1942 University Avenue, Suite 305, Berkeley, California 94704.

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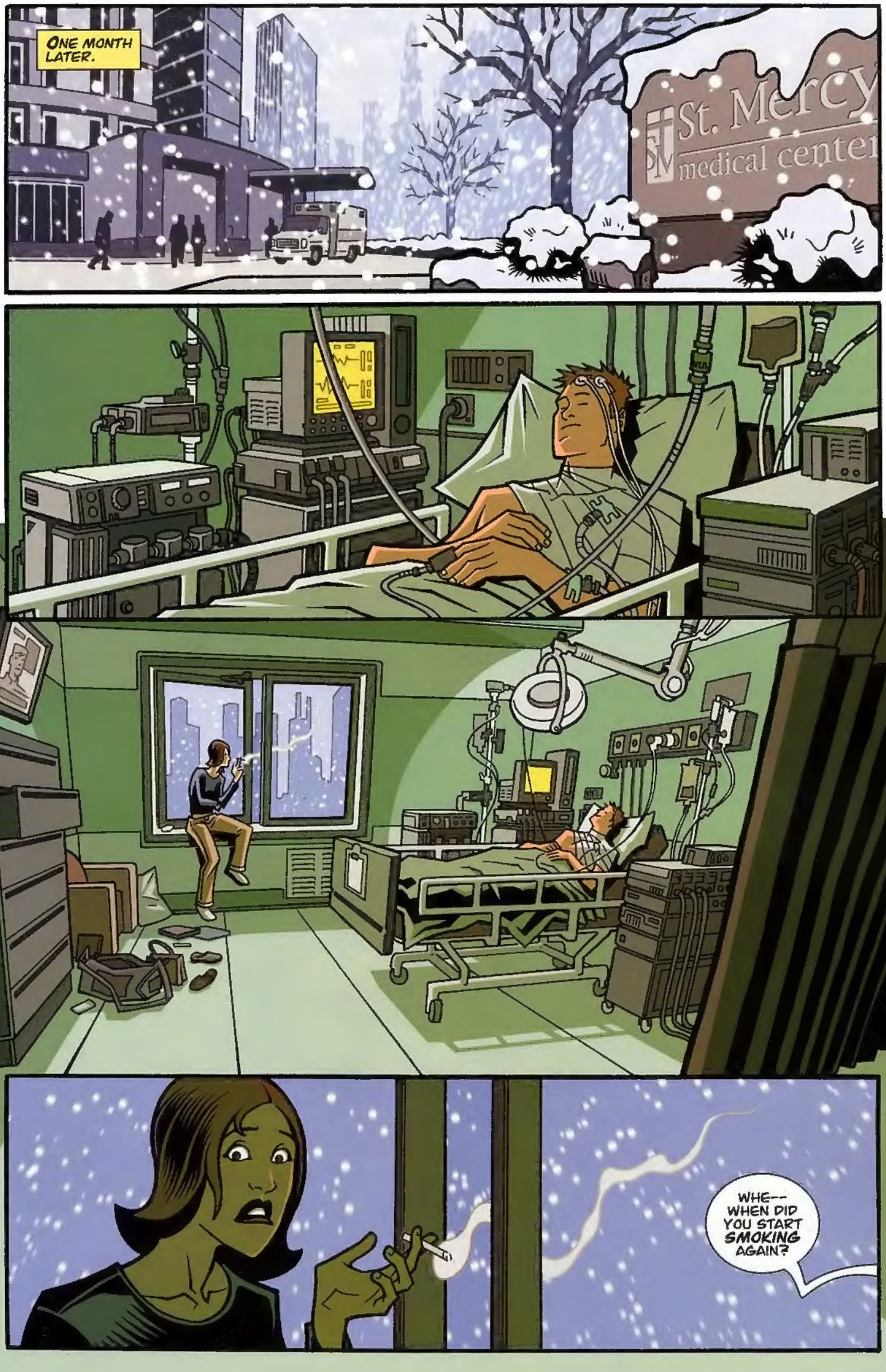
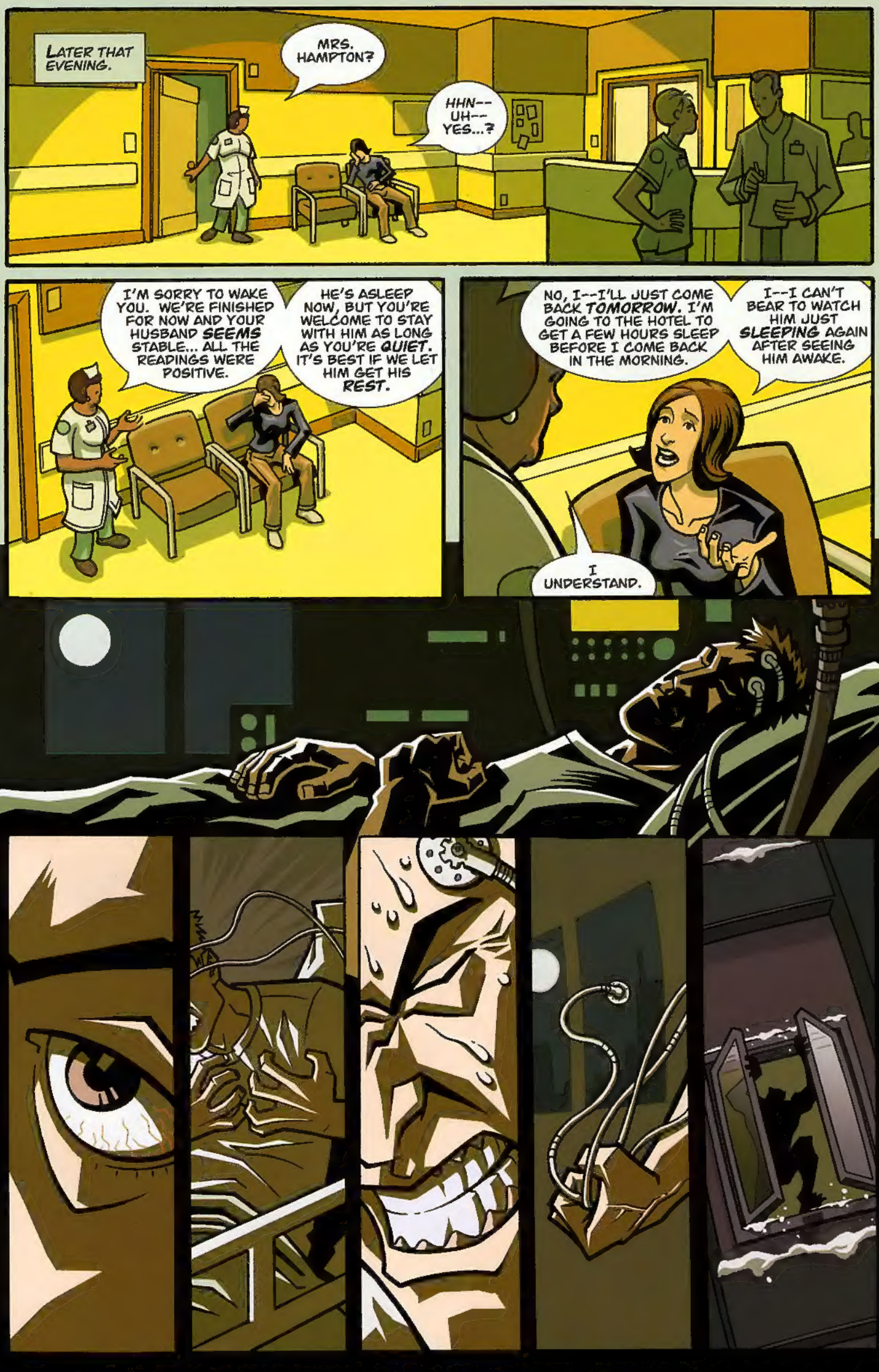
PRINTED IN CANADA.

WILLOW CREEK CAMPING GROUND.
WILLOW CREEK, MONTANA.
DADDY?
GARY, PLEASE--JUST HANG ON. PLEASE--THE AMBULANCE JUST PULLED UP--THE PARAMEDICS WILL BE HERE ANY SECOND.
JUST HANG ON.
REBECCA, HONEY... IT FEELS LIKE I--LIKE MY--
IS IT BAD?
IT'S...
OH GOD.
IT'S-- IT'S NOT THAT BAD.

S'FUNNY.
IT FEELS LIKE IT'S PRETTY BAD.


ONE MONTH LATER.
St. Mercy
medical center
WHE-- WHEN DID YOU START SMOKING AGAIN?

REBECCA? HONEY?
THAT IS YOU ISN'T IT?
GARY!
YEAH-- YES IT'S ME. OH, GOD-- YOU'RE AWAKE!
WHAT-- WHAT HAPPENED?
WHERE ARE WE? AM I IN THE HOSPITAL?
WE WENT CAMPING--DO YOU REMEMBER?
YEAH--I REMEMBER, I--OH MY GOD, I--I WAS ATTACKED WASN'T I?
YOU WERE MAULED BY A BEAR. THEY SENT YOU HERE TO NEW YORK AFTER A WEEK BECAUSE THE HOSPITAL IN MONTANA WAS A JOKE. THEY HAVE SPECIALISTS HERE, YOU'RE GOING TO BE--
WHERE'S CHLOE? IS SHE OKAY?
SHE'S UPSTATE, WITH YOUR PARENTS. THIS WAS HARD ON HER--I WANTED HER TO--
MA'AM, I HAVE TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE. YOUR HUSBAND'S AWAKE BUT WE'VE STILL GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO. HE'S NOT OUT OF THE WOODS JUST YET.
WE'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN YOU CAN COME BACK IN.


LATER THAT EVENING.
MRS. HAMPTON?
HHN-- UH-- YES...?
I'M SORRY TO WAKE YOU. WE'RE FINISHED FOR NOW AND YOUR HUSBAND SEEMS STABLE... ALL THE READINGS WERE POSITIVE.
HE'S ASLEEP NOW, BUT YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY WITH HIM AS LONG AS YOU'RE QUIET. IT'S BEST IF WE LET HIM GET HIS REST.
NO, I--I'LL JUST COME BACK TOMORROW. I'M GOING TO THE HOTEL TO GET A FEW HOURS SLEEP BEFORE I COME BACK IN THE MORNING.
I--I CAN'T BEAR TO WATCH HIM JUST SLEEPING AGAIN AFTER SEEING HIM AWAKE.
I UNDERSTAND.

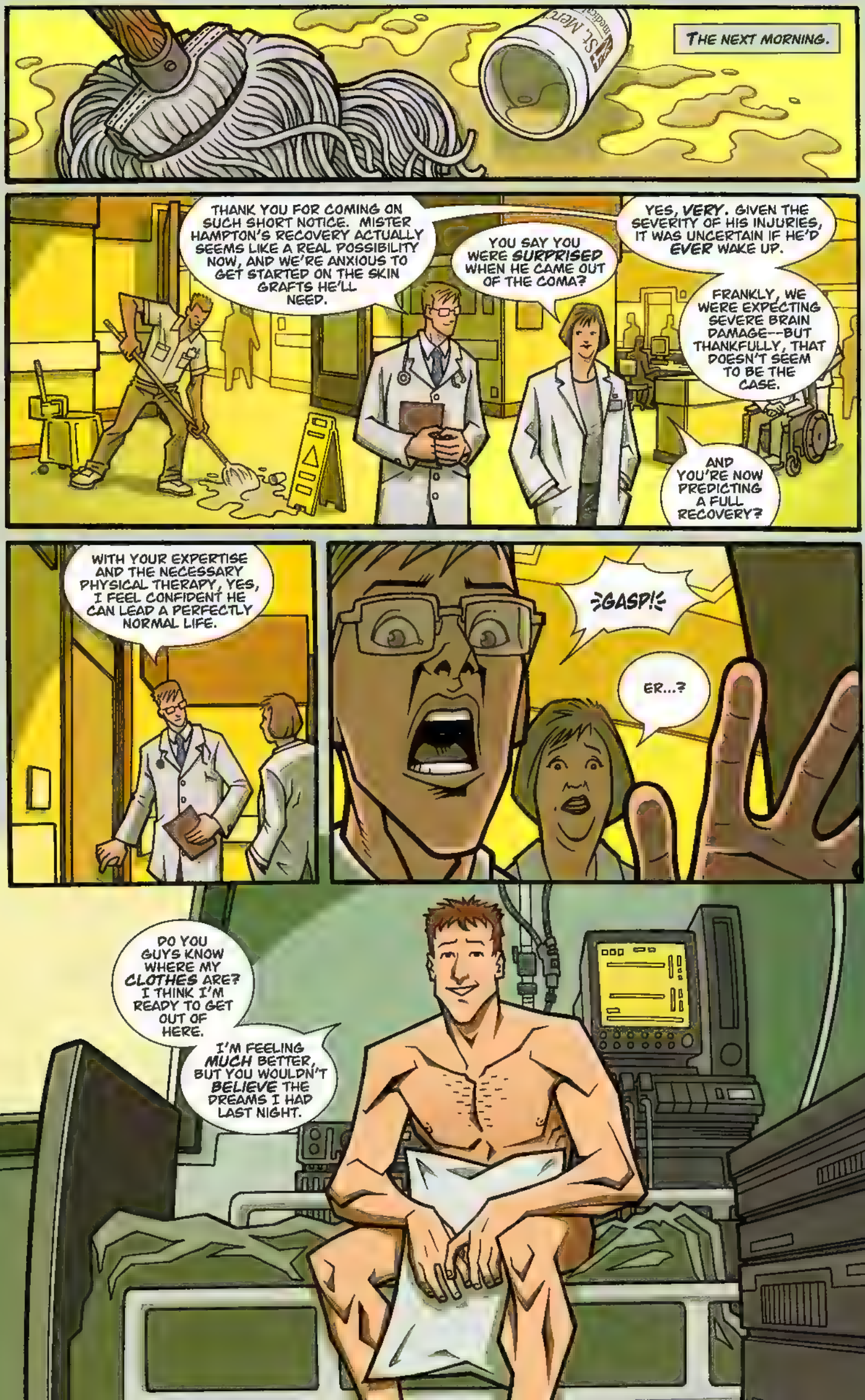
SKROOM!

SSKRKK!!

HRUKK! HRUKK! HRUKK!

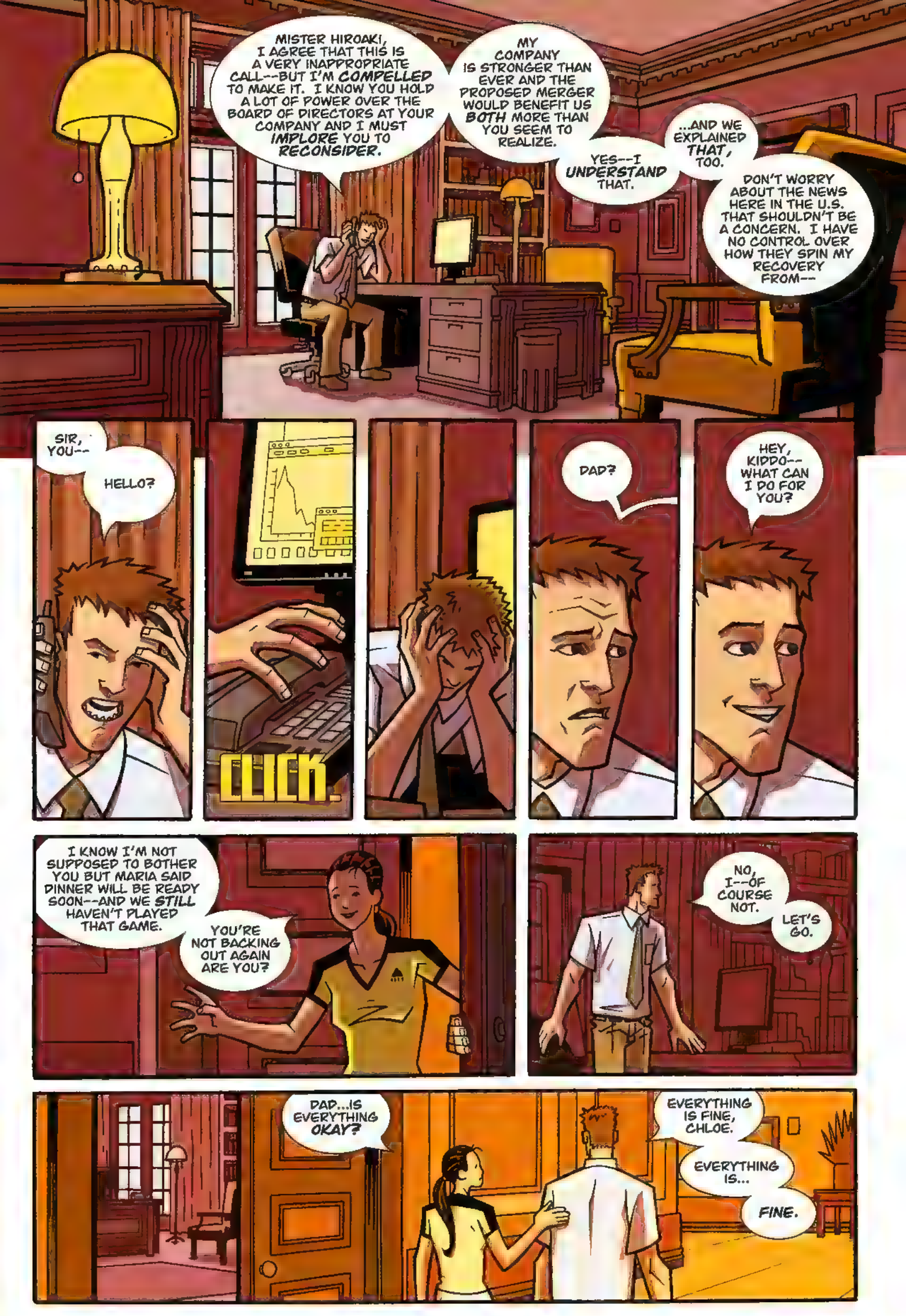
KROOM!!

SNARRLL!
YEEAGGH!

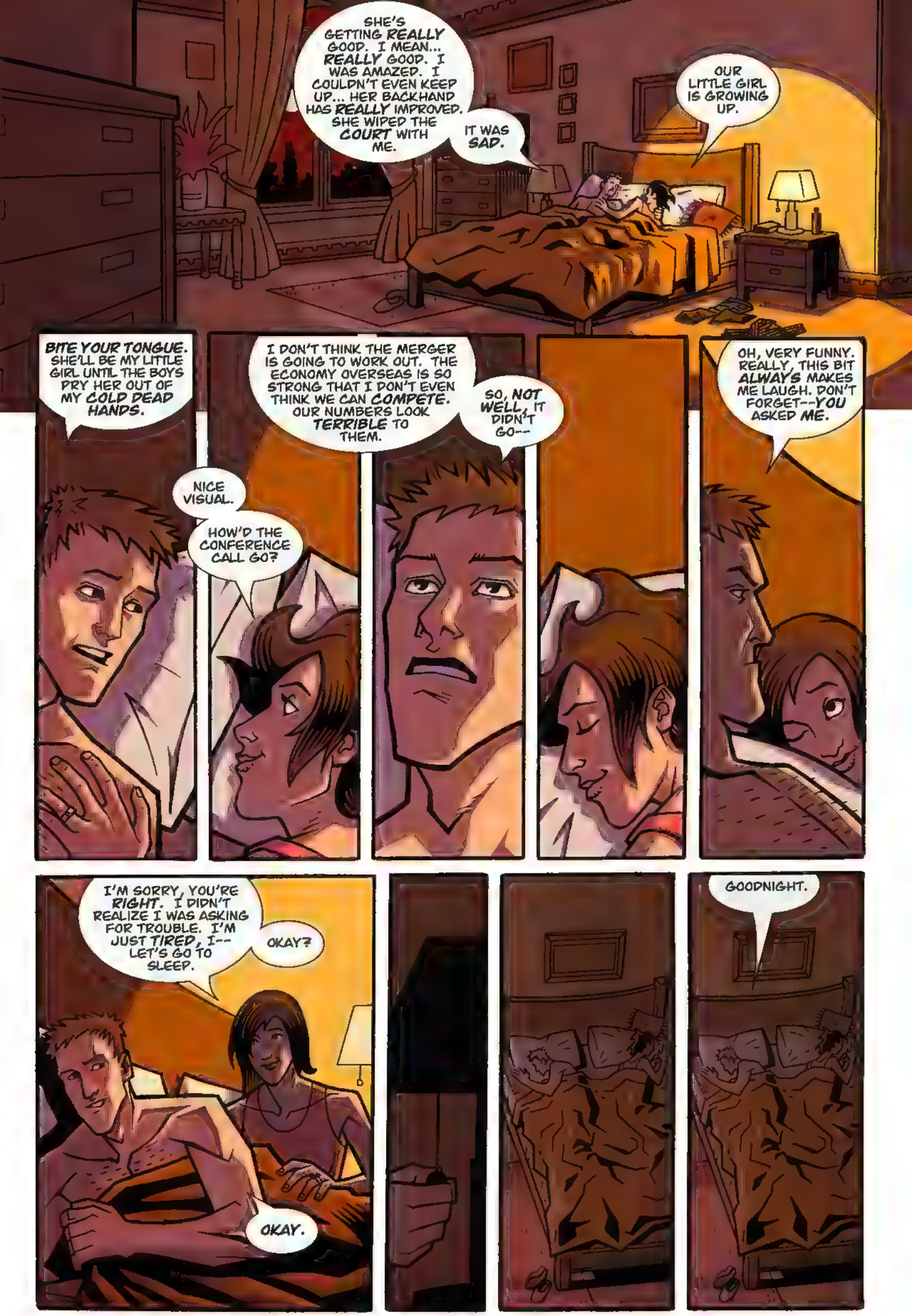

THE NEXT MORNING.
THANK YOU FOR COMING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. MISTER HAMPTON'S RECOVERY ACTUALLY SEEMS LIKE A REAL POSSIBILITY NOW, AND WE'RE ANXIOUS TO GET STARTED ON THE SKIN GRAFTS HE'LL NEED.
YOU SAY YOU WERE SURPRISED WHEN HE CAME OUT OF THE COMA?
YES, VERY. GIVEN THE SEVERITY OF HIS INJURIES, IT WAS UNCERTAIN IF HE'D EVER WAKE UP.
FRANKLY, WE WERE EXPECTING SEVERE BRAIN DAMAGE--BUT THANKFULLY, THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE CASE.
AND YOU'RE NOW PREDICTING A FULL RECOVERY?
WITH YOUR EXPERTISE AND THE NECESSARY PHYSICAL THERAPY, YES, I FEEL CONFIDENT HE CAN LEAD A PERFECTLY NORMAL LIFE.
=GASP!=
ER...?
DO YOU GUYS KNOW WHERE MY CLOTHES ARE? I THINK I'M READY TO GET OUT OF HERE.
I'M FEELING MUCH BETTER, BUT YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE DREAMS I HAD LAST NIGHT.

ONE MONTH LATER.
THE HAMPTON ESTATE.
HONEY, WE'RE--!
OH, HI, MARIA. HAVE YOU SEEN GARY?
YES, MA'AM. MISTER HAMPTON IS IN HIS STUDY. HE--
--IS RIGHT HERE. YOU'RE BACK LATE-- HOW DID IT GO?
GREAT! I TOTALLY WON THE FIRST ROUND. MY TEACHER SAID I'M GETTING AWESOME.
HER WORDS.
IT WAS ALL VERY IMPRESSIVE. YOU SHOULD HAVE COME.
HOW WAS YOUR DAY?
TOTAL CRAP. THE PHONE WAS RINGING OFF THE HOOK--THE REPORTERS JUST WON'T GIVE UP.
ANOTHER ONE ACTUALLY SNUCK ONTO THE GROUNDS. ALMOST MADE IT TO THE HOUSE.
I'M BARELY GETTING ANY WORK DONE. IT'S FRUSTRATING.

WHY WON'T YOU JUST GRANT SOMEONE AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW SO THE REST OF THEM WILL BACK OFF? HOW ABOUT THE WOMAN FROM DATELINE? SHE SEEMED NICE.
NO. ABSOLUTELY NOT. PEOPLE ALREADY THINK THIS WAS SOME KIND OF PUBLICITY STUNT TO HELP BOOST OUR "SAGGING STOCK."
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT? I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO FAKE A MONTH-LONG COMA... NOT IF I WANT TO STILL OWN A COMPANY AFTERWARD, AT LEAST.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO CONGRATULATE ME ON MY WIN? YOU ALREADY COULDN'T BE THERE... AREN'T YOU AT LEAST A LITTLE EXCITED?
YOU KNOW I AM, CHLOE. I'M VERY EXCITED--THAT'S GREAT NEWS. I PROMISE NOT TO MISS THE NEXT MATCH--I SWEAR.
I TELL YOU WHAT, AFTER DINNER--I'LL MEET YOU OUT ON THE COURT. YOU CAN SHOW ME SOME OF THOSE MOVES YOU'VE PERFECTED--WE'LL SEE JUST HOW GOOD YOUR GAME IS.
OKAY!
PREPARE TO BE SCHOOLED.
I'M PREPARED.
I'VE GOT A CONFERENCE CALL WITH ASIA IN FIVE. I'LL SEE YOU AT DINNER.
IF YOU'RE LATE FOR DINNER, SO HELP ME I WILL SMOKE A CIGARETTE JUST TO SPITE YOU.
THAT THREAT ALWAYS WORKS. I'LL SEE YOU AT SIX.

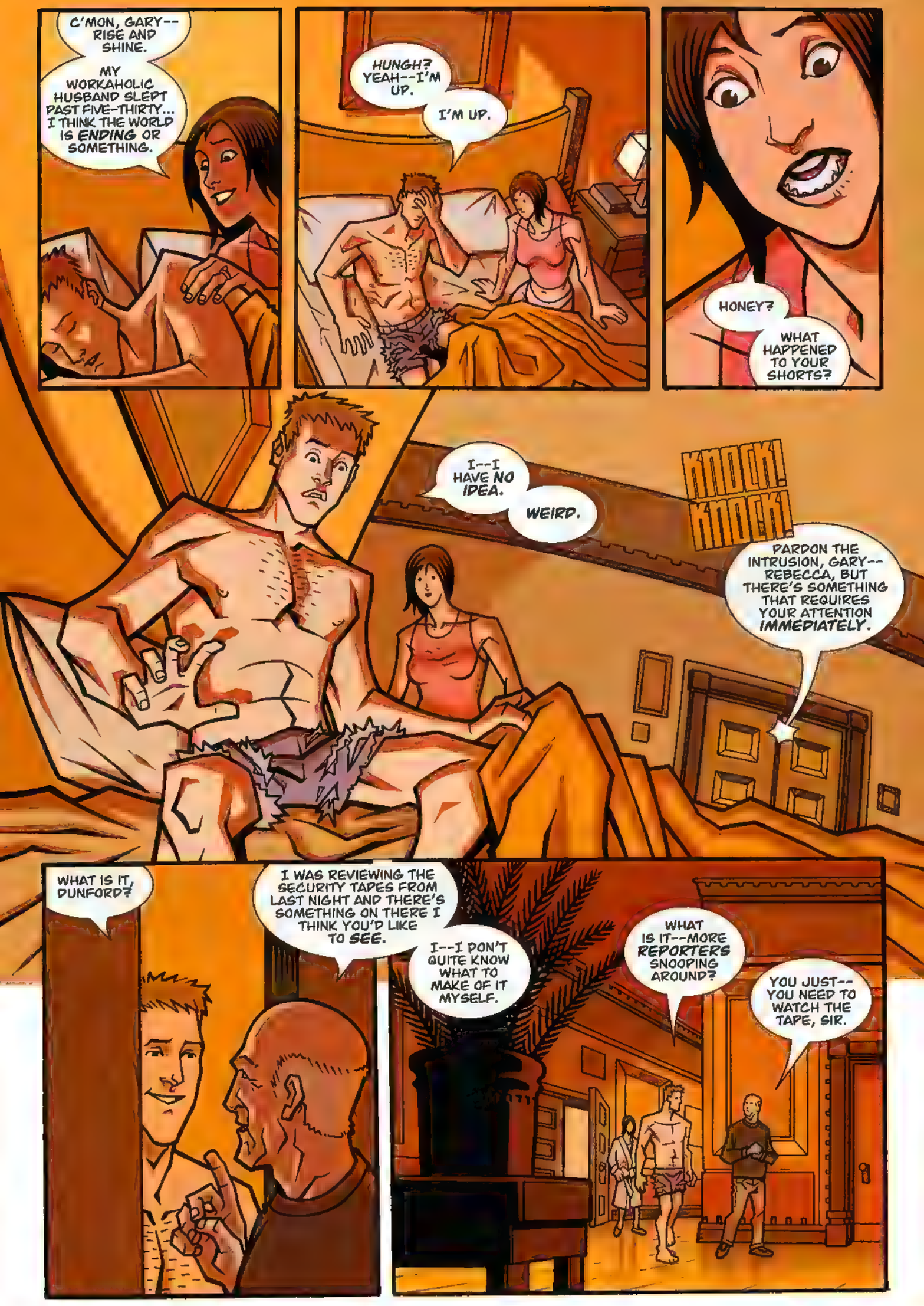

MISTER HIROAKI, I AGREE THAT THIS IS A VERY INAPPROPRIATE CALL--BUT I'M COMPELLED TO MAKE IT. I KNOW YOU HOLD A LOT OF POWER OVER THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT YOUR COMPANY AND I MUST IMPLORE YOU TO RECONSIDER.
MY COMPANY IS STRONGER THAN EVER AND THE PROPOSED MERGER WOULD BENEFIT US BOTH MORE THAN YOU SEEM TO REALIZE.
YES--I UNDERSTAND THAT.
...AND WE EXPLAINED THAT, TOO.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE NEWS HERE IN THE U.S. THAT SHOULDN'T BE A CONCERN. I HAVE NO CONTROL OVER HOW THEY SPIN MY RECOVERY FROM--
SIR, YOU--
HELLO?
CLICK.
DAD?
HEY, KIDDO--WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
I KNOW I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO BOTHER YOU BUT MARIA SAID DINNER WILL BE READY SOON--AND WE STILL HAVEN'T PLAYED THAT GAME.
YOU'RE NOT BACKING OUT AGAIN ARE YOU?
NO, I--OF COURSE NOT.
LET'S GO.
DAD...IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
EVERYTHING IS FINE, CHLOE.
EVERYTHING IS...
FINE.

UNPH!
WHAM!
ARRGH!
THAT'S IT--THAT'S MATCH. YOU DID OKAY... I MEAN FOR SOMEONE WHO'S NOT REALLY IN PRACTICE... AND IS AS OLD AS YOU ARE... AND DOESN'T REALLY GET A LOT OF EXERCISE...
THAT'S ENOUGH, KIDDO. I GET WHERE YOU'RE GOING. NO NEED TO BRUISE MY EGO EVEN MORE. YOU REALLY HAVE IMPROVED A TON-- I'M REALLY IMPRESSED.
LET'S GET INTO THE HOUSE BEFORE I'M TOO SORE TO WALK. I'M SURE MARIA'S DONE WITH DINNER BY NOW.
THANKS FOR PLAYING WITH ME, DAD. IT WAS A LOT OF FUN.
ANYTIME YOU WANT TO EMBARRASS THE OLD MAN, LET ME KNOW--IT WAS FUN FOR ME TOO.
TELL ME, CHLOE... HOW ARE THINGS GOING IN SCHOOL? YOU GETTING ALONG WITH YOUR FRIENDS OKAY?
SURE, I GUESS.
IF YOU EVER NEED TO TALK ABOUT ANYTHING-- YOU KNOW I'M HERE FOR YOU, RIGHT?
YEAH-- OF COURSE, DAD.
YOU KNOW... YOU CAN TALK TO ME TOO ABOUT STUFF... IF YOU EVER WANTED TO.
I LOVE YOU, DAD.
I LOVE YOU TOO.

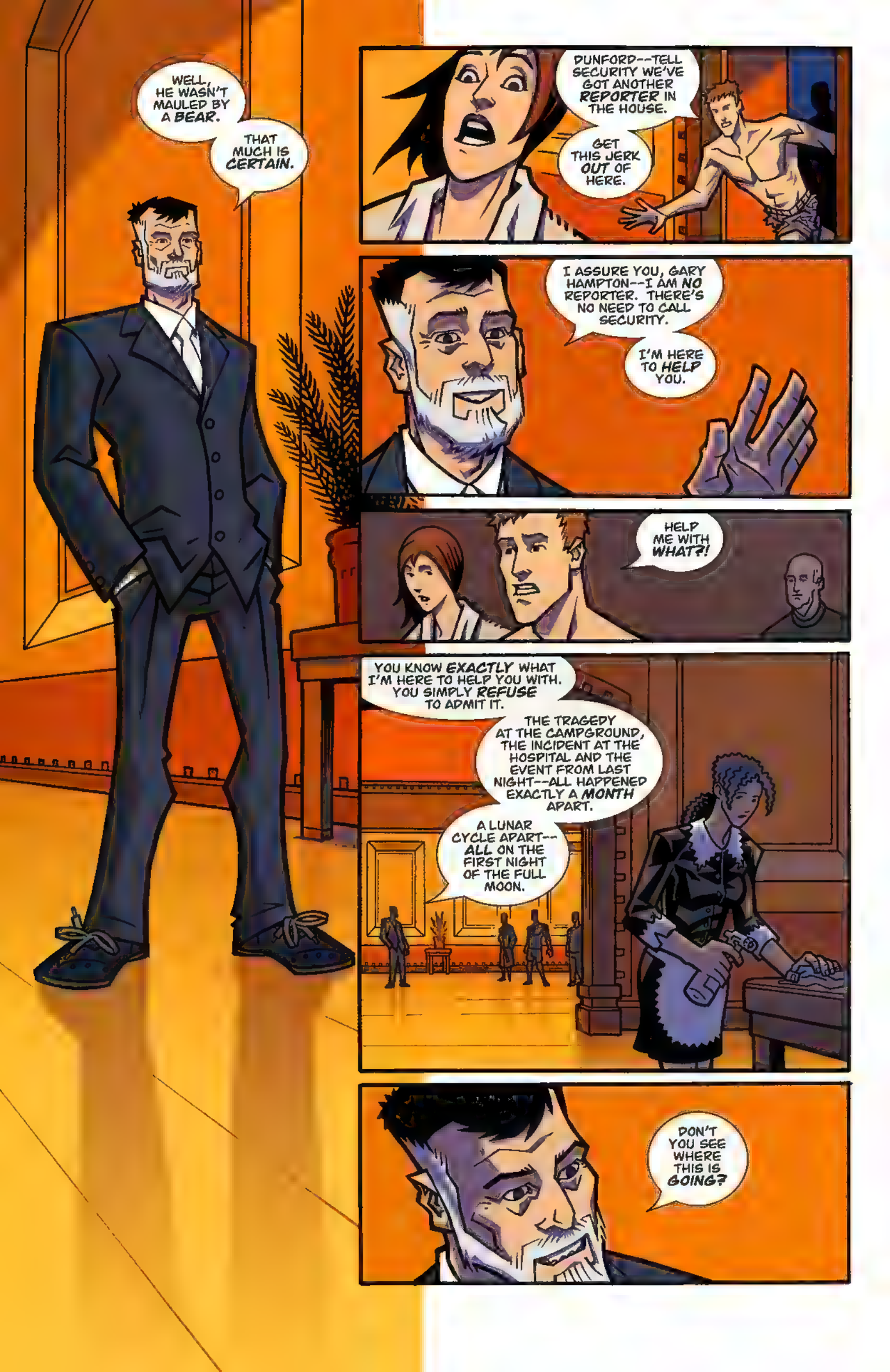

SHE'S GETTING REALLY GOOD. I MEAN... REALLY GOOD. I WAS AMAZED. I COULDN'T EVEN KEEP UP... HER BACKHAND HAS REALLY IMPROVED. SHE WIPED THE COURT WITH ME.
IT WAS SAD.
OUR LITTLE GIRL IS GROWING UP.
BITE YOUR TONGUE. SHE'LL BE MY LITTLE GIRL UNTIL THE BOYS PRY HER OUT OF MY COLD DEAD HANDS.
NICE VISUAL.
HOW'D THE CONFERENCE CALL GO?
I DON'T THINK THE MERGER IS GOING TO WORK OUT. THE ECONOMY OVERSEAS IS SO STRONG THAT I DON'T EVEN THINK WE CAN COMPETE. OUR NUMBERS LOOK TERRIBLE TO THEM.
SO, NOT WELL, IT DIDN'T GO--
OH, VERY FUNNY. REALLY, THIS BIT ALWAYS MAKES ME LAUGH. DON'T FORGET--YOU ASKED ME.
I'M SORRY, YOU'RE RIGHT. I DIDN'T REALIZE I WAS ASKING FOR TROUBLE. I'M JUST TIRED, I-- LET'S GO TO SLEEP.
OKAY?
OKAY.
GOODNIGHT.

UNGH... UMM... YOU OKAY?
HMMPH.
≥HAUUH!≤
≥HAUUKK!≤

SNARRLL!
SPLOCHH


C'MON, GARY--RISE AND SHINE.
MY WORKAHOLIC HUSBAND SLEPT PAST FIVE-THIRTY... I THINK THE WORLD IS ENDING OR SOMETHING.
HUNGH? YEAH--I'M UP.
I'M UP.
HONEY?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR SHORTS?
I--I HAVE NO IDEA.
WEIRD.
KNOCK! KNOCK!
PARDON THE INTRUSION, GARY--REBECCA, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING THAT REQUIRES YOUR ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY.
WHAT IS IT, DUNFORD?
I WAS REVIEWING THE SECURITY TAPES FROM LAST NIGHT AND THERE'S SOMETHING ON THERE I THINK YOU'D LIKE TO SEE.
I--I DON'T QUITE KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF IT MYSELF.
WHAT IS IT--MORE REPORTERS SNOOPING AROUND?
YOU JUST--YOU NEED TO WATCH THE TAPE, SIR.

WHAT THE--?! IS IT A COSTUME? IS IT A BURGLAR IN A COSTUME?
IT CERTAINLY DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A COSTUME.
WELL--IT CAN'T BE WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE. IT CAN'T--
OH GOD!!
YOUR SHORTS-- OH, GOD!
WHAT IS IT, REBECCA? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE SHORTS ARE THE SAME! THEY'RE THE SAME! YOU--ON THE SECURITY FEED-- THAT'S YOU!
IT'S YOU!
THE BEAR--THE MIRACLE HEALING--ALL OF IT--IT HAD TO BE THIS--THIS THING YOU ARE.
IT'S ALL CONNECTED. YOU'RE A--
YOU'RE A--


WELL, HE WASN'T MAULED BY A BEAR.
THAT MUCH IS CERTAIN.
DUNFORD--TELL SECURITY WE'VE GOT ANOTHER REPORTER IN THE HOUSE.
GET THIS JERK OUT OF HERE.
I ASSURE YOU, GARY HAMPTON--I AM NO REPORTER. THERE'S NO NEED TO CALL SECURITY.
I'M HERE TO HELP YOU.
HELP ME WITH WHAT?!
YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'M HERE TO HELP YOU WITH. YOU SIMPLY REFUSE TO ADMIT IT.
THE TRAGEDY AT THE CAMPGROUND, THE INCIDENT AT THE HOSPITAL AND THE EVENT FROM LAST NIGHT--ALL HAPPENED EXACTLY A MONTH APART.
A LUNAR CYCLE APART--ALL ON THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON.
DON'T YOU SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING?

DUNFORD--CALL SECURITY NOW.
NO, WAIT--I WANT TO HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY. HE'S NOT HURTING ANYTHING.
I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU--MAKING SURE MY SUSPICIONS WERE CORRECT, MAKING SURE I WAS RIGHT. YOU DO BEAR THE CURSE--YOU ARE WHAT I HAVE HOPED YOU TO BE.
YOU HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED--YOUR LIFE AS YOU KNEW IT IS OVER. YOU'VE CHANGED, YOU'VE BEEN REBORN--YOU'RE ON A NEW PATH NOW, ONE I THINK YOU'LL AGREE IS VERY IMPORTANT.
I'VE TAKEN AN INTEREST IN YOU--I'M GOING TO MENTOR YOU.
YOU ARE A BEING OF GREAT POWER--BUT THAT POWER IS RAW--UNCHECKED--DANGEROUS.
I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU TO HARNESS THAT POWER--TO CONTROL THE BEAST WITHIN.
AND JUST HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DO THAT?
I'LL START BY TEACHING YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW.
AND I ASSURE YOU...

I KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT THE SUPERNATURAL.

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ROBERT KIRKMAN
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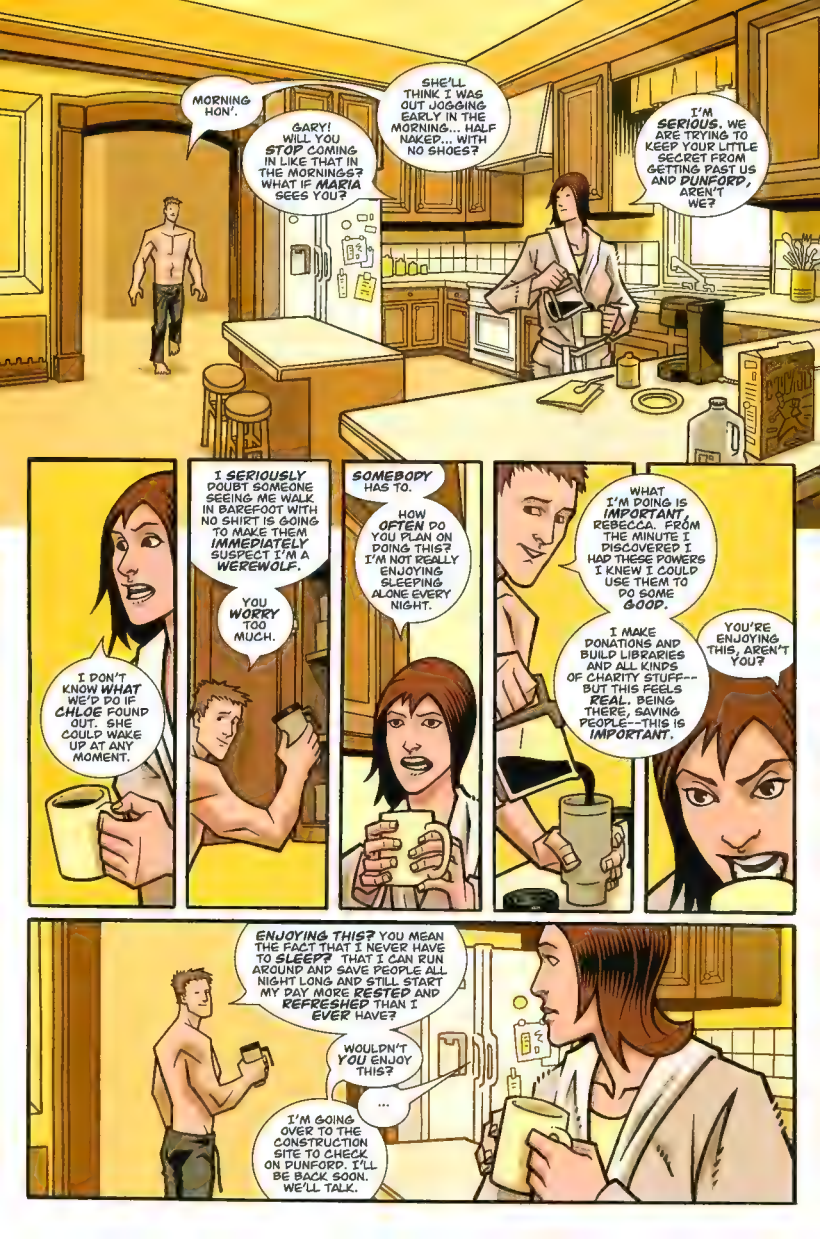
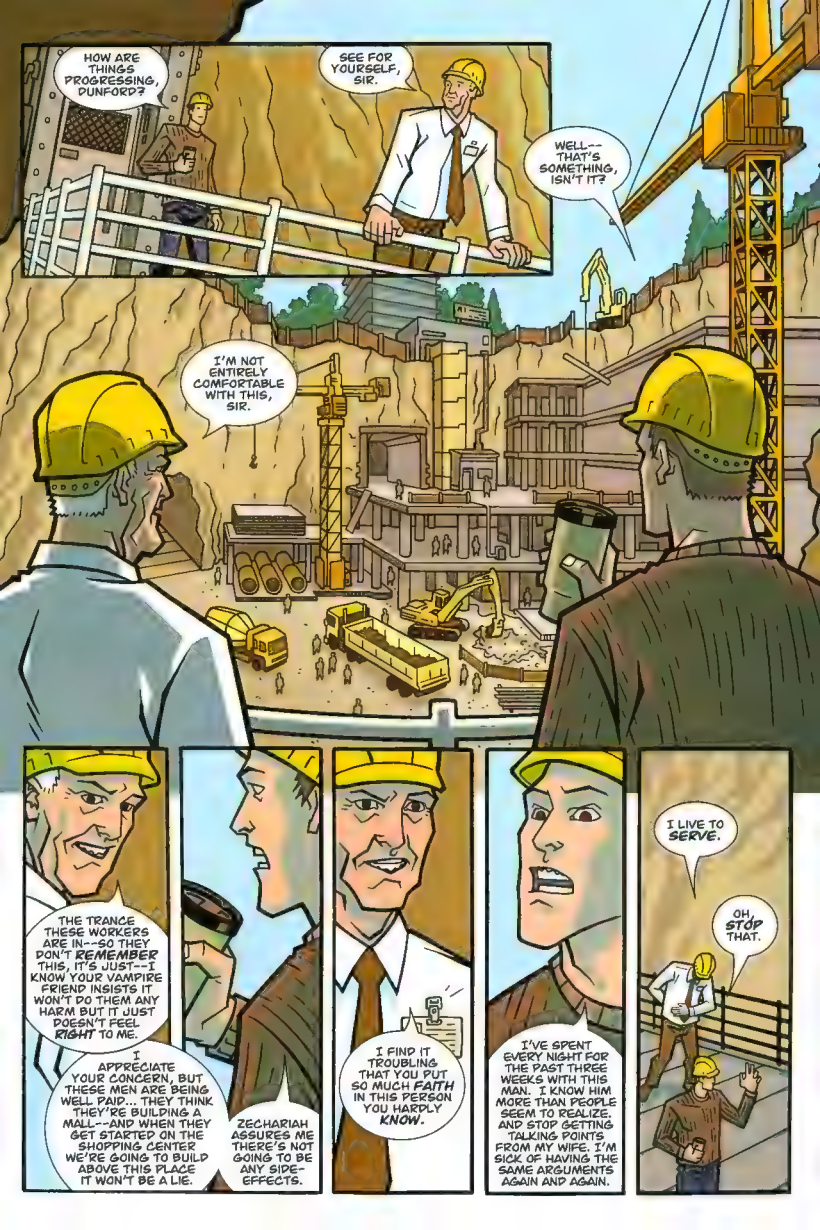
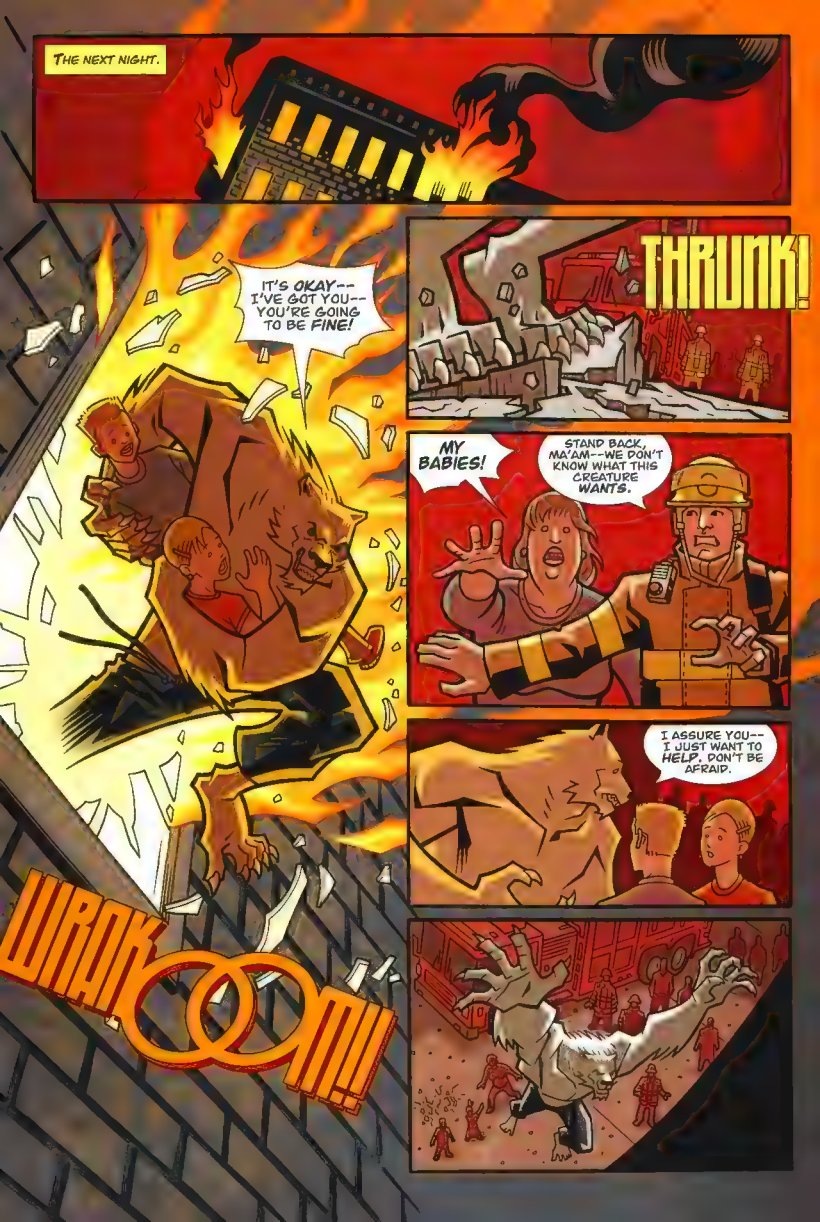
KROOM!
THAT WAS IMPRESSIVE. YOU'VE IMPROVED A GREAT DEAL OVER THESE LAST FEW WEEKS.
HAVE I?
I'VE GOTTEN A BETTER HANDLE ON CONTROLLING MY TRANSFORMATIONS. YES--BUT I'M STILL HAVING A HARD TIME ADJUSTING TO THIS BODY. I'M STILL NOT USED TO HOW STRONG I AM. I ALMOST LEAPT CLEAR OVER THIS BUILDING.
AND REBECCA-- SHE'S STILL NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THE FACT THAT I'VE ALLOWED YOU TO TRAIN ME. SHE DOESN'T SEE WHAT YOU'RE GETTING OUT OF THE DEAL.
SHE DOESN'T TRUST YOU.
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU GETTING OUT OF THE DEAL, ZECHARIAH?
YOU ARE A CREATURE OF THE NIGHT, LIKE MYSELF--AND YOU ARE A BEING OF GREAT POWER.
IT IS NOT EASY FOR ONE SUCH AS MYSELF TO GAIN AN ALLY AND ONE AS POWERFUL AS YOU WILL BE VERY GOOD TO HAVE.

THAT'S ANOTHER THING--SO IF YOU'RE A VAMPIRE WHY IS IT THAT I NEVER SEE YOU DRINKING BLOOD? I MEAN, THAT'S SOMETHING YOU DO, RIGHT?
SOME THINGS ARE BETTER LEFT UNSAID, MY FRIEND.
MOST OF WHAT YOU KNOW OF VAMPIRES IS TRUE. I DO DRINK BLOOD, YES, BUT IT DOES NOT ALWAYS HAVE TO BE HUMAN AND IT'S NOT SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO FREQUENTLY.
THAT'S A RELIEF.
REST ASSURED, GARY--YOU'VE DEFINITELY COME UP WITH A WINNER IN THE SUPERNATURAL LOTTERY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING UNSAVORY LIKE DRINK BLOOD TO MAINTAIN YOUR EXISTENCE. WITH SIMPLE TRAINING YOU CAN TRANSFORM AT WILL DURING THE NIGHT AND CONTROL YOUR WOLF-FORM. YOUR TRANSFORMATION HEALS ALL WOUNDS YOU'VE SUSTAINED IN THE PREVIOUS FORM. WHILE IN WOLF-FORM YOU HAVE INCREASED STRENGTH, STAMINA AND AGILITY--AS WELL AS ENHANCED SENSES.
YOU SHOULD HAVE VERY FEW COMPLAINTS.
HONESTLY, NONE COME TO MIND. ASIDE FROM SOME DISAGREEMENTS WITH MY WIFE OVER SOME THINGS--THIS IS THE BEST THING THAT'S EVER HAPPENED TO ME.
GIVE IT TIME.
...
YOU SHOULD MAKE YOUR WAY HOME... THE SUN WILL BE UP SOON.


MORNING HON'.
GARY! WILL YOU STOP COMING IN LIKE THAT IN THE MORNINGS? WHAT IF MARIA SEES YOU?
SHE'LL THINK I WAS OUT JOGGING EARLY IN THE MORNING... HALF NAKED... WITH NO SHOES?
I'M SERIOUS. WE ARE TRYING TO KEEP YOUR LITTLE SECRET FROM GETTING PAST US AND DUNFORD, AREN'T WE?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'D DO IF CHLOE FOUND OUT. SHE COULD WAKE UP AT ANY MOMENT.
I SERIOUSLY DOUBT SOMEONE SEEING ME WALK IN BAREFOOT WITH NO SHIRT IS GOING TO MAKE THEM IMMEDIATELY SUSPECT I'M A WEREWOLF.
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH.
SOMEBODY HAS TO.
HOW OFTEN DO YOU PLAN ON DOING THIS? I'M NOT REALLY ENJOYING SLEEPING ALONE EVERY NIGHT.
WHAT I'M DOING IS IMPORTANT, REBECCA. FROM THE MINUTE I DISCOVERED I HAD THESE POWERS I KNEW I COULD USE THEM TO DO SOME GOOD.
I MAKE DONATIONS AND BUILD LIBRARIES AND ALL KINDS OF CHARITY STUFF--BUT THIS FEELS REAL. BEING THERE, SAVING PEOPLE--THIS IS IMPORTANT.
YOU'RE ENJOYING THIS, AREN'T YOU?
ENJOYING THIS? YOU MEAN THE FACT THAT I NEVER HAVE TO SLEEP? THAT I CAN RUN AROUND AND SAVE PEOPLE ALL NIGHT LONG AND STILL START MY DAY MORE RESTED AND REFRESHED THAN I EVER HAVE?
WOULDN'T YOU ENJOY THIS?
...
I'M GOING OVER TO THE CONSTRUCTION SITE TO CHECK ON DUNFORD. I'LL BE BACK SOON. WE'LL TALK.


HOW ARE THINGS PROGRESSING, DUNFORD?
SEE FOR YOURSELF, SIR.
WELL--- THAT'S SOMETHING, ISN'T IT?
I'M NOT ENTIRELY COMFORTABLE WITH THIS, SIR.
THE TRANCE THESE WORKERS ARE IN--SO THEY DON'T REMEMBER THIS, IT'S JUST--I KNOW YOUR VAMPIRE FRIEND INSISTS IT WON'T DO THEM ANY HARM BUT IT JUST DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT TO ME.
I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, BUT THESE MEN ARE BEING WELL PAID... THEY THINK THEY'RE BUILDING A MALL---AND WHEN THEY GET STARTED ON THE SHOPPING CENTER WE'RE GOING TO BUILD ABOVE THIS PLACE IT WON'T BE A LIE.
ZECHARIAH ASSURES ME THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE ANY SIDE-EFFECTS.
I FIND IT TROUBLING THAT YOU PUT SO MUCH FAITH IN THIS PERSON YOU HARDLY KNOW.
I'VE SPENT EVERY NIGHT FOR THE PAST THREE WEEKS WITH THIS MAN. I KNOW HIM MORE THAN PEOPLE SEEM TO REALIZE. AND STOP GETTING TALKING POINTS FROM MY WIFE. I'M SICK OF HAVING THE SAME ARGUMENTS AGAIN AND AGAIN.
I LIVE TO SERVE.
OH, STOP THAT.


THE NEXT NIGHT.
IT'S OKAY-- I'VE GOT YOU-- YOU'RE GOING TO BE FINE!
THRUNK!
MY BABIES!
STAND BACK, MA'AM--WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS CREATURE WANTS.
I ASSURE YOU-- I JUST WANT TO HELP. DON'T BE AFRAID.
WRAK
OOM!!

WELL DONE.
I SEE--WELL, SOMEONE DEFINITELY GOT PHOTOS OF ME DOWN THERE--AND IN THIS DAY AND AGE I'M SURE SOMEONE DOWN THERE HAD A VIDEO CAMERA.
I THINK I'VE JUST GONE PUBLIC.
HOW'D YOU GET UP HERE SO FAST?
AFTER I FOUND THOSE KIDS I SEARCHED THE REST OF THE BUILDING IN MIST FORM--IT'S A PRETTY EFFICIENT WAY TO TRAVEL.
HOW CUTE--BABY'S ALL GROWN UP.
WE'D BETTER GET GOING--THEY MUST HAVE SEEN YOU COME UP HERE--THEY'LL HAVE A TRAFFIC 'COPTER UP HERE IN NO TIME.
COME ON.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO REALLY DO THIS--YOU'RE GOING TO NEED TO LOOK THE PART.
FOLLOW ME.

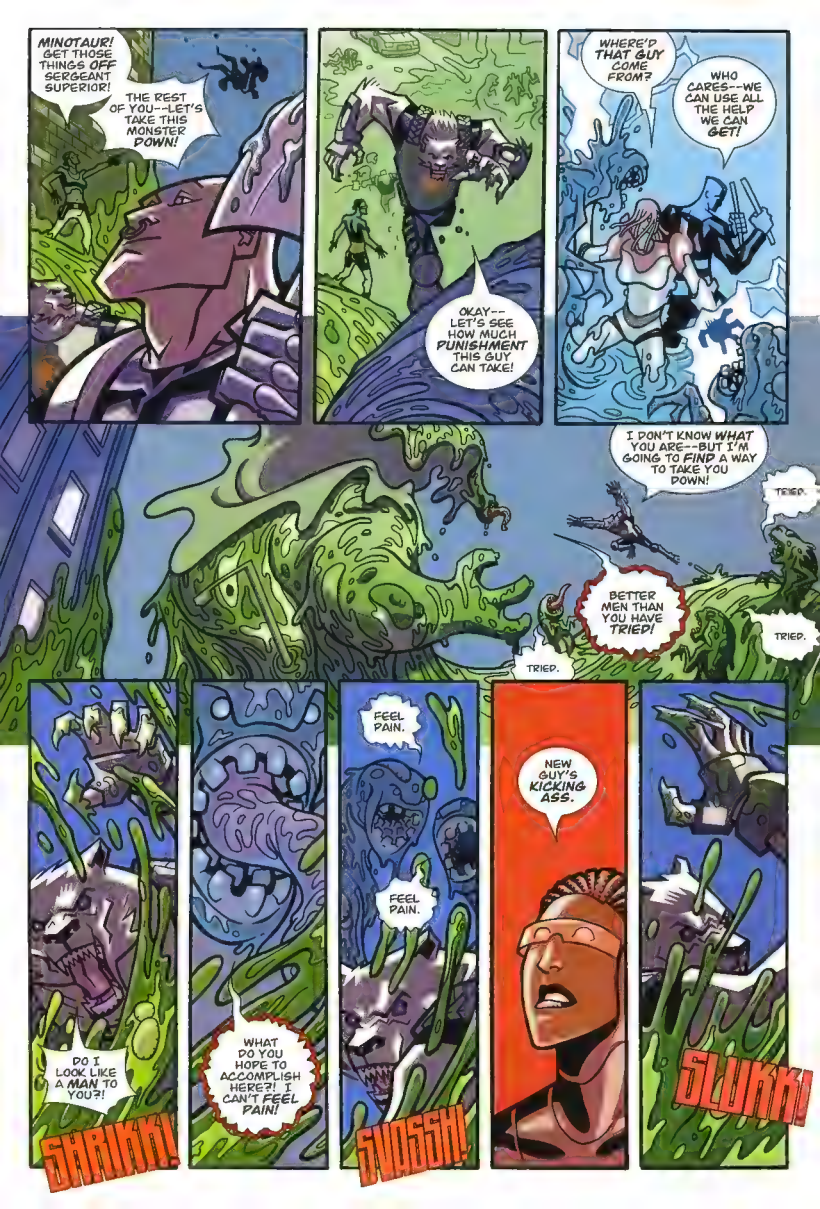
DAYS LATER.
GOOD TO SEE YOU GUYS AGAIN--AND THANKS FOR USING THE BACK ENTRANCE--I TRY TO KEEP MY PROM DRESS CLIENTELE AND THE SUPER-SUIT CLIENTELE AS UNAWARE OF EACH OTHER AS POSSIBLE.
YOU DO PROM DRESSES, TOO?
SCREWED THAT UP--WELL, ENOUGH CHIT-CHAT. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THE UNASSUMING TAILOR SHOP OF ART ROSENBAUM--PERSONAL TAILOR TO SUPERHEROES ALL OVER THE WORLD.
IT WORKS.
I LIKE IT--DIDN'T THINK I WOULD--BUT I DO.
AND I AGREE--THE LITTLE DOMINO MASK DID LOOK SILLY.
GOOD, I'VE GOT TO ADMIT, I ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT. I DON'T KNOW YOU GUYS--I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FOUND ME, BUT I WORK PRETTY MUCH ONLY ON REFERRAL ON THIS STUFF. SO I WAS GOING TO TURN DOWN THE JOB.
THEN I SAW YOU ON THE NEWS SAVING THOSE KIDS... FIGURED YOU WERE ON THE LEVEL AFTER THAT.
OH, THAT MADE THE NEWS? WITH MY SCHEDULE--I MUST HAVE MISSED IT.
GOOD ARTICLE--YOU WERE WELL REPRESENTED. THEY'VE TAKEN TO CALLING YOU WOLF-MAN.
OH, GOD--SERIOUSLY? I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.
ARE YOU KIDDING? THAT'S A GREAT NAME. IT REALLY HELPED ME VISUALIZE THIS SUIT--IT'S ICONIC. IT ALSO GOES A LONG WAY TO DEFUSING YOUR THREATENING APPEARANCE--BEING A GIANT WOLF AND ALL.
NO OFFENSE.
WERE IT ME--I WOULD EMBRACE IT.

LATER THAT NIGHT
WHAT DID HE SAY THESE WRIST-THINGS DO EXACTLY?
THEY COLLECT AND STORE MOONLIGHT. THEY SHOULD ALLOW YOU TO REMAIN IN WOLF-FORM FOR A SHORT DURATION OF TIME IF YOU'RE EVER CAUGHT IN THE DAYLIGHT.
SOMETHING I SUGGESTED, DIDN'T THINK HE'D BE ABLE TO WORK IT OUT--GUY'S A GENIUS.
HE INVENTED THAT? CALLING THAT MAN A TAILOR SEEMS LIKE A BIT OF AN UNDER-STATEMENT.
INDEED. I'D SAY HE SHOULD BE WORKING FOR NASA--- BUT I JUST SAW WHAT YOU PAID HIM FOR THAT SUIT. HE MADE THE RIGHT CAREER CHOICE.
WELL, GARY--TONIGHT MARKS THE COSTUMED DEBUT OF WOLF-MAN. THIS IS A BIG NIGHT FOR YOU--YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY SINCE WE FIRST MET.
AND I THANK YOU FOR THAT, ZECHARIAH. I'D STILL BE TRYING TO FIGURE THIS STUFF OUT IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU.
WE STILL NEED TO WORK OUT SOME KIND OF PAYMENT. I WAS SERIOUS ABOUT THAT.
I'VE GOT NO USE FOR YOUR MONEY. I APPRECIATE THE OFFER--BUT NO. I WON'T BE ACCEPTING ANY FORM OF PAYMENT FROM YOU.
HOW'S WORK PROGRESSING ON THE VEHICLE?
STILL IN THE DESIGN STAGES--BUT I'M CONFIDENT IT WILL BE UP AND RUNNING IN LESS THAN--
BOOM!!
LOOKS LIKE THEY COULD USE SOME HELP.
YEAH.
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
GET TO IT.

OKAY, ACTIONEERS--THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE HERE--DON'T GIVE THEM AN INCH!
WE CAN DO THIS--YOU KNOW WE CAN!
NOW FIGHT!
YOU'RE KIDDING YOURSELF, KINETIC!
KIDDING YOURSELF.
KIDDING YOURSELF.
KIDDING YOURSELF.
YOUR PITIFUL TEAM HAS NO HOPE OF DEFEATING ME!

RAARGH!!
SHUNK!
SHUNK!
SHUNK!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
THEY CALL ME WOLF-MAN.
YOU?
I'M CODE BLUE, I--
THERE'S NO TIME FOR THIS--SPORE IS EXPANDING HIMSELF--GROWING TOO LARGE--TOO POWERFUL!
FORGET THE DRONES AND FOCUS ON HIM!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ASK TWICE, BOSS LADY!
I'M ON IT!
NO HOPE.
NO HOPE.
NO HOPE.
BRING IT ON, WEAKLING!
BRING IT ON.
BRING IT ON.
BRING IT ON.
BRING IT ON.

KA-BLOOM!!
HA! HA! HA!
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THAT, FOOL!
MORE THAN THAT
MORE THAN THAT.
MORE THAN THAT
MORE THAN THAT.
YEEAAGGHH!!


MINOTAUR! GET THOSE THINGS OFF SERGEANT SUPERIOR!
THE REST OF YOU--LET'S TAKE THIS MONSTER DOWN!
OKAY--- LET'S SEE HOW MUCH PUNISHMENT THIS GUY CAN TAKE!
WHERE'D THAT GUY COME FROM?
WHO CARES--WE CAN USE ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE--BUT I'M GOING TO FIND A WAY TO TAKE YOU DOWN!
TRIED.
BETTER MEN THAN YOU HAVE TRIED!
TRIED.
TRIED.
DO I LOOK LIKE A MAN TO YOU?!
SHRIKK!
WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH HERE?! I CAN'T FEEL PAIN!
FEEL PAIN.
FEEL PAIN.
SVOSSH!
NEW GUY'S KICKING ASS.
SLUKK!

THIS DOES NOTHING!
I STILL LIVE! I LIVE!
I LIVE.
I LIVE.
I LIVE.
SUPERIOR--NOW!!
GET HIS HEAD--DON'T LET IT TOUCH ANY PART OF THE REST OF HIM!
WILL DO--BUT WHAT DO I DO WITH IT NOW?!
BRING IT TO ME!
WHAT'S LEFT OF THIS GUY ISN'T PUTTING UP A FIGHT ANYMORE--IT'S DYING.
IT'S WORKING--KEEP THE HEAD CONTAINED!
SPLAKK!
WHOKK!
SHUKK!
WE'VE GOT IT!
NICE WORK, MECHA-MAID.
HE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE NOW.
WE DID IT--
IT'S OVER.

WE DIDN'T DO IT ALONE.
YEAH--NICE WORK THERE, FURBALL.
FURBALL?
I DIDN'T IMAGINE THE GIANT WEREWOLF GUY WHO HELPED US PEEGAT SPORE, DID I?
NO--I SAW HIM, TOO. DUDE MUST HAVE CUT OUT.
WEIRD.
WHATEVER--LET'S GO PUT THIS JERK ON ICE BEFORE SOMEONE MAKES US CLEAN UP THIS MESS.
NOT FEELING SOCIAL TONIGHT?
COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING TO SAY TO THEM--THOUGHT IT'D BE BEST TO SLIP AWAY. I DON'T KNOW IF I'M JUST INSECURE BECAUSE I'M SO NEW AT THIS OR WHAT--BUT I'M WORRIED SOMEONE'S GOING TO ATTACK ME JUST BECAUSE OF THE WAY I LOOK.
WHY DO YOU THINK I DIDN'T GO DOWN THERE?
WAS GOING TO ASK THAT MYSELF.
I'M AN OLD MAN AND I ABHOR VIOLENCE--AND VAMPIRES AREN'T USUALLY TREATED VERY WARMLY.
FAIR ENOUGH.
THINK I MIGHT CUT OUT EARLY TONIGHT. IF MY WIFE WAKES UP NEXT TO ME THIS MORNING I MIGHT NOT BE IN THE DOGHOUSE FOR AT LEAST ONE DAY.

THE NEXT NIGHT.
GOODNIGHT, CHLOE.
GOODNIGHT, DAD.
REBECCA--HAS CHLOE SAID ANYTHING TO YOU ABOUT HAVING A BOYFRIEND? I THINK SHE MIGHT HAVE A BOYFRIEND.
MAKES ME A LITTLE WORRIED.
REBECCA?
I'LL BE OUT IN A MINUTE.
WELL-- COME OUT AND GIVE ME A KISS. I'VE GOT TO GET TO MY NIGHT JOB.
DO YOU REALLY NEED TO GO SO SOON?
I--UH-- ZECHARIAH CAN WAIT A BIT TONIGHT.
COME HERE.

IRK!
GARY! WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
ARE YOU?!
CH--
CHANGING-- CAN'T--
I THOUGHT YOU COULD CONTROL IT NOW!
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN--
GRRACKK!!
GRRR.
AAIIEEE!!!
GARRRGH!!
KHOOM!!!

SNARL!
GOOD EVENING, FRIEND. IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
SHUFF!
SHUFF!
OUT ON PATROL? THAT'S PRETTY OLD SCHOOL. NICE.
WE DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO THANK YOU FOR THE HELP THE OTHER DAY. I SAW YOU DOWN HERE AND JUST WANTED TO SAY TH--
HEY? YOU IN THERE, PAL?
SAY SOMETHING.

GRARR!!
HUAAKK?!!

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ROBERT KIRKMAN
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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN #3. September 2007. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 1942 University Avenue, Suite 305, Berkeley, California 94704.

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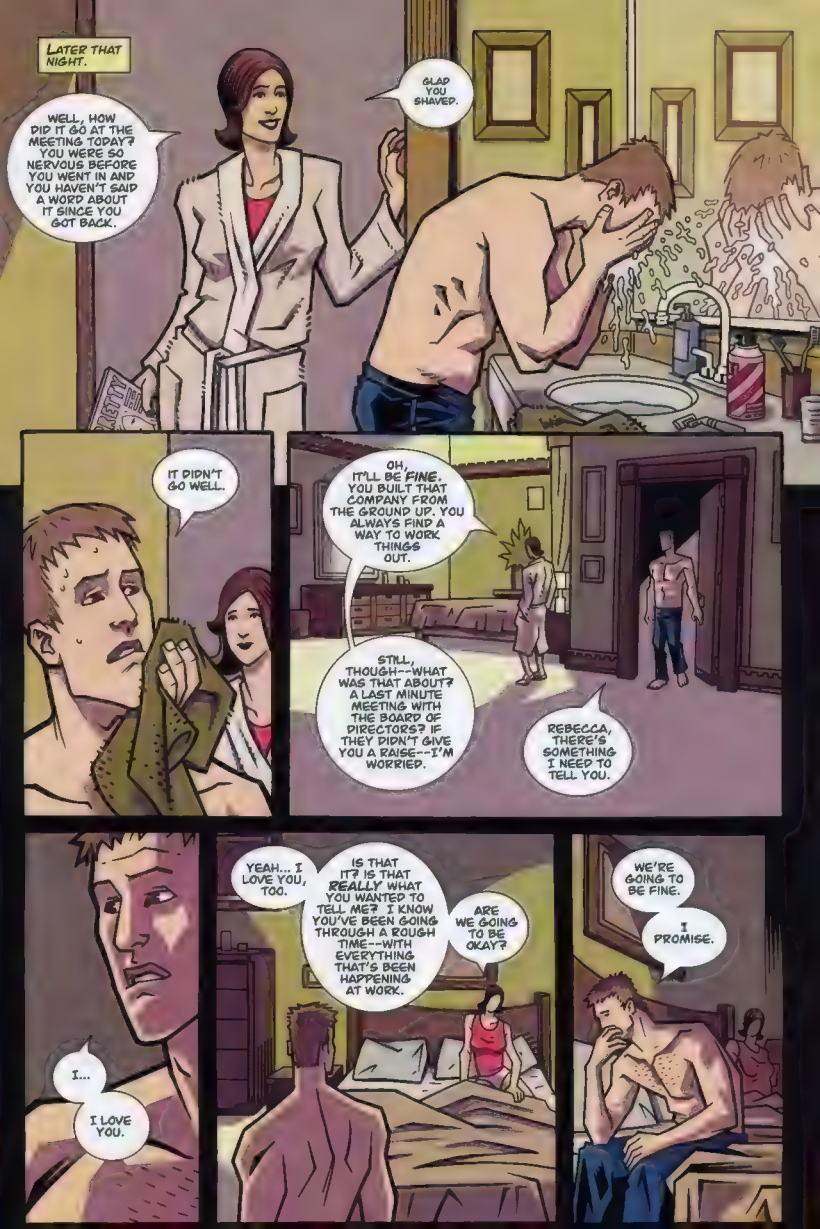
12
VROOM!!
SKREEE!
KLIK
WELL...
THE GOOD NEWS IS THE CAR'S DONE.
UH...
WHAT?

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!
TWO WEEKS?!
YOU'VE BEEN GONE FOR TWO WEEKS!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT I'VE DONE?!
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'VE DONE.
YOU KNEW?! YOU KNEW I COULD STILL LOSE CONTROL?!
YOU KNEW WHAT I WAS CAPABLE OF AND YOU DIDN'T TELL ME?!
IT'S COMPLICATED. THE FACT IS, GARY... I MADE A MISTAKE.

IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS. I WANTED YOU TO EXPERIENCE IT--THE RAGE, THE FREEDOM, THE FEELING OF BEING OUT OF CONTROL.
I WANTED YOU TO RESPECT IT.
IF I JUST TOLD YOU ABOUT IT--I DON'T THINK YOU WOULD HAVE TAKEN IT SERIOUSLY. THE POWER YOU HAVE--HOW DANGEROUS IT IS... YOU NEEDED TO EXPERIENCE IT FIRST HAND.
I THOUGHT YOU'D STAY ON YOUR PROPERTY--RUN THROUGH THE WOODS, HUNT... I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D HURT ANYBODY. YOU RETAIN A BIT OF YOURSELF EVEN IN THAT STATE--YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE HURT REBECCA OR CHLOE. I KNEW THEY WERE SAFE.
YOU HAD NEVER KILLED BEFORE...
I'M NOT SO SURE THAT'S TRUE...
AT FIRST IT JUST SEEMED LIKE A DREAM. I WOKE UP IN THE HOSPITAL WITH A HAZY RECOLLECTION OF THE NIGHT BEFORE. RUNNING ACROSS ROOFTOPS, LEAPING, FALLING.
I ENCOUNTERED A MAN, TENDING A ROOFTOP GARDEN.
...
ONCE I STARTED TRAINING WITH YOU--AND AFTER THAT NIGHT AT MY HOUSE, RIGHT BEFORE YOU CAME, I STARTED TO REALIZE... THOSE THINGS... THEY PROBABLY HAPPENED. THAT DREAM WAS PROBABLY REAL.
I HAD TRIED TO CONVINCE MYSELF IT WASN'T. AFTER WHAT I DID TO SERGEANT SUPERIOR... I KNEW I WAS JUST FOOLING MYSELF.
YOU CAN CONTROL YOUR TRANSFORMATIONS... YOU CAN BE WOLF-MAN AT NIGHT, EVERYTHING I TAUGHT YOU STILL APPLIES.
BUT ONCE A MONTH, ON THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON, YOU WILL LOSE ALL CONTROL AND REVERT BACK TO THE BEAST--THE CURSE WILL TAKE HOLD OF YOU AND THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP THIS.
I KNOW IT PROVIDES LITTLE COMFORT BUT YOU ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR WHATEVER YOU DO IN THIS STATE. YOU ARE OUT OF CONTROL--YOU ARE YOU, BUT NOT... YOU'RE AN ANIMAL, A WILD BEAST.
SERGEANT SUPERIOR'S DEATH--IF ANYTHING, THE BLAME FALLS ON ME. I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU--I SHOULD HAVE LOCKED YOU UP SOMEWHERE, CONTAINED YOU... BUT I DIDN'T.
I MADE A MISTAKE.

HOW IS IT YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THIS STUFF? YOU'RE A VAMPIRE, NOT A WEREWOLF.
I'VE BEEN AROUND. YOU PICK THINGS UP AFTER A WHILE.
GO AHEAD, GUESS. HOW OLD DO YOU THINK I AM?
I DON'T KNOW... WHAT, A THOUSAND?
UGH--FRIGGIN' DRACULA. EVER SINCE THAT BOOK WAS PUBLISHED EVERY VAMPIRE AND THEIR BROTHER WANTS TO SELL THEIR STORY--GET FAMOUS.
I USED TO GET GUESSES LIKE "FORTY-FIVE" OR UGH--SIXTY. NOW THERE'S NO MYSTERY. SURE MOST PEOPLE THINK WE'RE NOT REAL BUT THE SECOND THEY DO FIND OUT THEY ALREADY KNOW THE DEAL. FOR THE MOST PART.
ALTHOUGH, I MUST ADMIT, I DO LIKE HOW CURRENT WRITERS HAVE DEEMED THE MYTHOLOGY TOO SILLY. THERE'S NO TURNING INTO BATS, OR MIST... AND CUTTING THE HEAD OFF INSTEAD OF A STAKE THROUGH THE HEART...
I BET I COULD SURVIVE GETTING MY HEAD CUT OFF. I'M JUST TOO SCARED TO TRY.
I KILLED A MAN, ZECHARIAH.
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

NOTHING.
I HID THE BODY. DIDN'T YOU WONDER WHY THE MURDER NEVER MADE THE NEWS?
I THOUGHT THAT WAS A COVER-UP-- SOMETHING TO KEEP THE PUBLIC FROM PANICKING.
NO. AS FAR AS THEY KNOW HE JUST DISAPPEARED. UNLESS YOU WANT TO CONFESS?
NO.
DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP. YOU'VE MADE THE RIGHT DECISION. YOU WERE NOT YOURSELF. YOU ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH.
THINK OF YOUR FAMILY. YOU CAN DO MORE GOOD OUT HERE THAN IN A CELL.
YEAH, I-- I HAVEN'T TAKEN WOLF-FORM SINCE THE INCIDENT--I WAS SCARED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN. WHEN I SAW YOU, I JUST LOST CONTROL.
WE CAN GO BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE. I CAN START PATROLLING AGAIN... TOMORROW NIGHT.
THERE'S SOME THINGS I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF FIRST, TONIGHT. I NEED THE TIME.
TOMORROW, THEN.

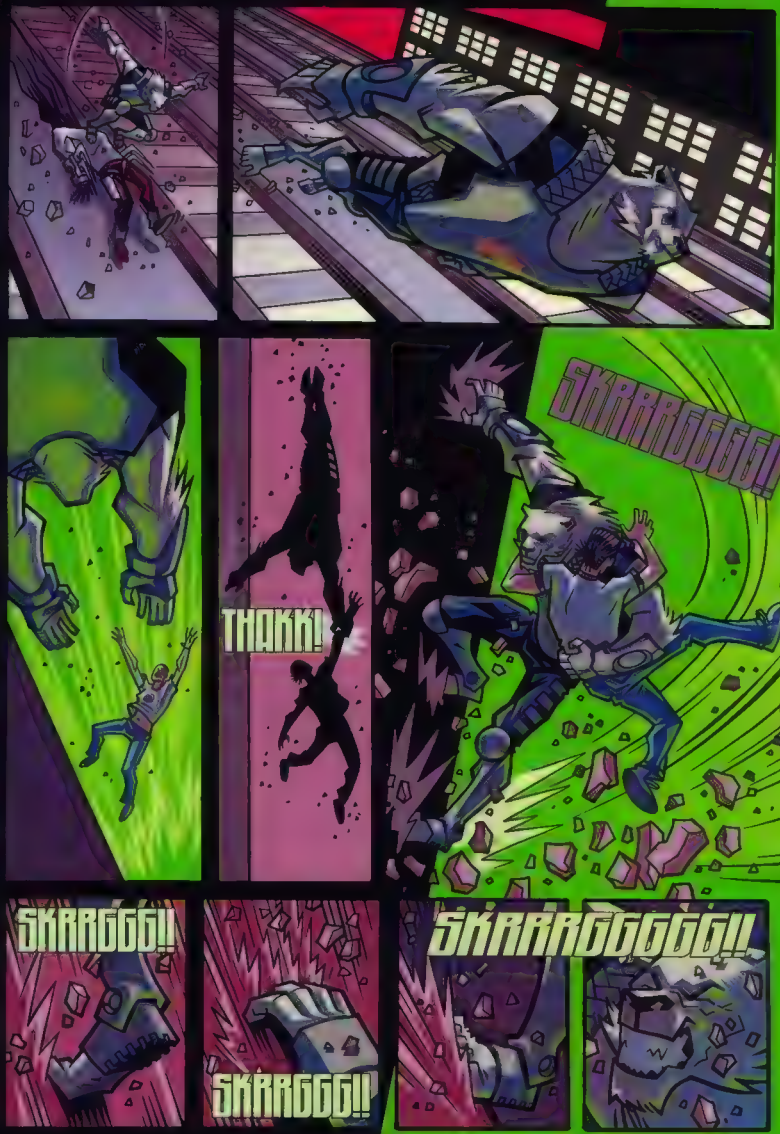

LATER THAT NIGHT.
WELL, HOW DID IT GO AT THE MEETING TODAY? YOU WERE SO NERVOUS BEFORE YOU WENT IN AND YOU HAVEN'T SAID A WORD ABOUT IT SINCE YOU GOT BACK.
GLAD YOU SHAVED.
IT DIDN'T GO WELL.
OH, IT'LL BE FINE. YOU BUILT THAT COMPANY FROM THE GROUND UP. YOU ALWAYS FIND A WAY TO WORK THINGS OUT.
STILL, THOUGH--WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT? A LAST MINUTE MEETING WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS? IF THEY DIDN'T GIVE YOU A RAISE--I'M WORRIED.
REBECCA, THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU.
I...
I LOVE YOU.
YEAH.. I LOVE YOU, TOO.
IS THAT IT? IS THAT REALLY WHAT YOU WANTED TO TELL ME? I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH A ROUGH TIME--WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT WORK.
ARE WE GOING TO BE OKAY?
WE'RE GOING TO BE FINE.
I PROMISE.

THE NEXT NIGHT.
VROOOM!!
OKAY, FROM WHAT I CAN DECIPHER FROM THE POLICE BAND--THIS GUY, THRILL KILL, TOOK A HOSTAGE AFTER THE COPS SHOWED UP. THEY WERE IN PURSUIT BUT HE TOOK TO THE ROOFTOPS AND THEY JUST LOST HIM.
HE'S STILL IN THIS AREA--GOTTA BE. YOU READY BACK THERE?
AS I'LL EVER BE.
FIRE.
TEK.
FOOM!!

DON'T SEE HIM YET.
:SHUFF!:
AIN'T-- AIN'T PUTTING ME AWAY--
:SHUFF!:
AIN'T CATCHIN'--
:SHUFF!:
YOU'LL SEE--
YOU'RE MY TICKET OUTTA HERE.
THERE.

LET THE GIRL GO!
YOU MIGHT WANT TO RETHINK YOUR CHOICE OF WORDS THERE, PAL--'CAUSE I'M OBLIGED TO ACCOMMODATE YOU.
AIEEEEE!!
DON'T...
NO, THIS IS FINE. I DROP HER, THEN YOU'LL SAVE HER. SHE'LL BE OKAY--BUT YOU GOTTA LET ME GO IN ORDER TO SAVE HER. IT'LL BE GREAT.
YOU'LL SEE.

IRK?!
WHUMP!
SWISH!
SKRDDMH
SKKKKRRRRRRRR!!!
AAIIEEEE!!!


SKRRRGGGG!!
THAKK!
SKRRGGG!!
SKRRGGG!!
SKRRRGGGGG!!

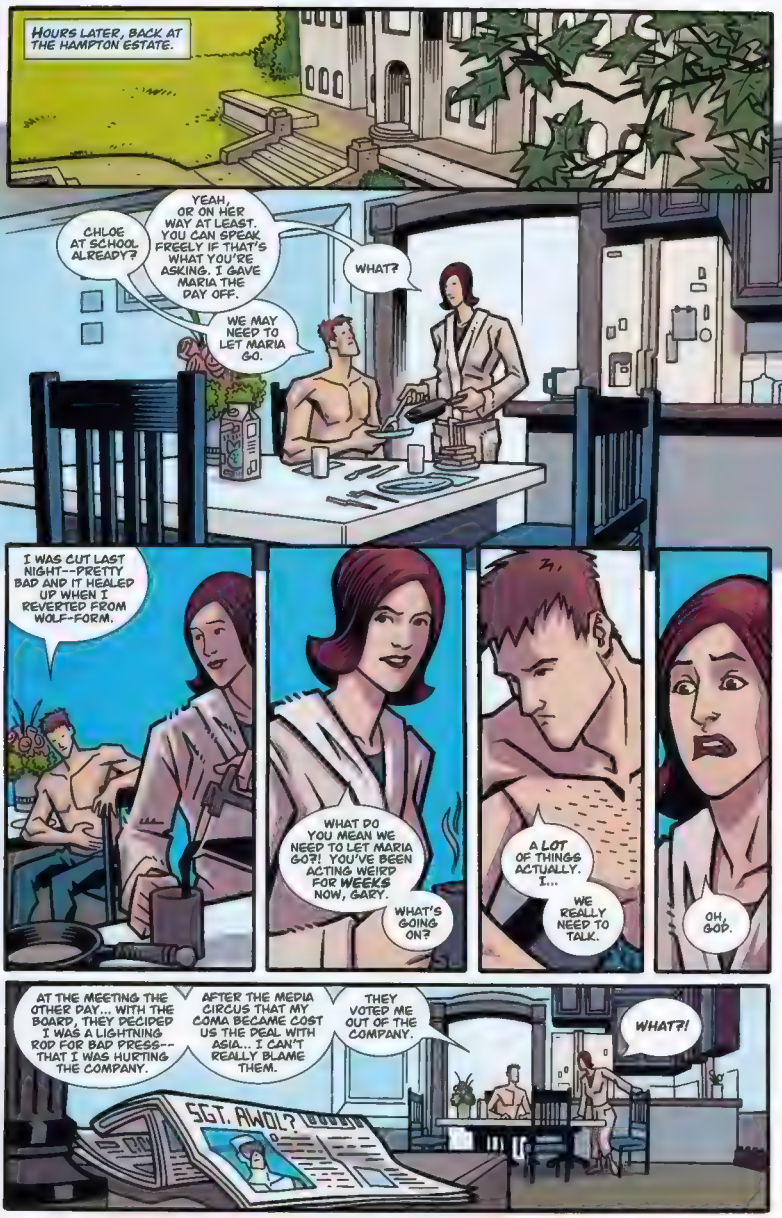
UH?
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
POLICE-- FREEZE!
WHAT?! PUT THOSE AWAY, YOU JERKS!
MA'AM, PLEASE.
DON'T "MA'AM" ME! THIS GUY JUST SAVED MY LIFE! I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU SHOOT HIM!
JUST LOOK AT HIM! HE'S NOT HERE TO HURT ME! HE--
HE'S GONE.

ZECK?
THUNK!
WOLF 1
ZECHARIAH?
WHAT?!
GARY, I CAN EXPLAIN--
SILENCE!

YOU PROTECT THIS ONE?
HE IS ELDER BROOD.
SAY NOTHING.
I DO.
GRRRR!!
WHY ARE YOU--?
WHAT--?!
SVQSSHH!
WROHH!!
GRRRR.

WHA-KOOM!!
NICE.
:HUFF!:
:HUFF!:
:HUFF!:
:HUFF!:
:HUFF!:
I TOLD YOU I WASN'T ALONE. YOU'VE MESSED WITH THE WRONG VAMPIRE, IDIOT.
WE DID NOT COME HERE TO CHALLENGE AN ELDER BROOD... BUT WE WILL BE READY FOR YOU NEXT TIME.
ANOTHER TIME, ZECHARIAH.

YOU SURE WAITED LONG ENOUGH TO GO INTO MIST FORM. WE COULD HAVE JUST RUN AT ANY TIME.
I TRY TO KEEP THAT ABILITY A SECRET IF I CAN HELP IT. I PREFER PEOPLE TO NOT EXPECT IT.
SUN WILL BE UP SOON... I NEED TO BE GETTING BACK TO MY HOLE. CAN YOU GET THE CAR BACK ON YOUR OWN? SORRY ABOUT THE DOOR.
WHOA, HOLD ON THERE! WHAT THE HELL WAS THIS ALL ABOUT?
THEY'VE BEEN AFTER ME FOR A WHILE--I'M SURPRISED IT TOOK THEM THIS LONG TO CATCH UP TO ME HERE.
I DON'T REALLY HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN RIGHT NOW.
WAIT--WHY ARE THEY AFTER YOU? WHAT DID YOU DO TO THEM?
LOOK, WE'VE BOTH DONE THINGS IN THE PAST THAT WE'RE NOT PROUD OF, OKAY? CAN I JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT?
OKAY, FAIR ENOUGH. BUT--THEY KEPT CALLING ME "ELDER BROOD." WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS. I'VE GOT TO BE GOING--REALLY. THERE'S NOT A LOT OF NIGHT LEFT.


HOURS LATER, BACK AT THE HAMPTON ESTATE.
CHLOE AT SCHOOL ALREADY?
YEAH, OR ON HER WAY AT LEAST. YOU CAN SPEAK FREELY IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ASKING. I GAVE MARIA THE DAY OFF.
WHAT?
WE MAY NEED TO LET MARIA GO.
I WAS CUT LAST NIGHT--PRETTY BAD AND IT HEALED UP WHEN I REVERTED FROM WOLF-FORM.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN WE NEED TO LET MARIA GO?! YOU'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD FOR WEEKS NOW, GARY.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
A LOT OF THINGS ACTUALLY. I...
WE REALLY NEED TO TALK.
OH, GOD.
AT THE MEETING THE OTHER DAY... WITH THE BOARD, THEY DECIDED I WAS A LIGHTNING ROD FOR BAD PRESS--THAT I WAS HURTING THE COMPANY.
AFTER THE MEDIA CIRCUS THAT MY COMA BECAME COST US THE DEAL WITH ASIA... I CAN'T REALLY BLAME THEM.
THEY VOTED ME OUT OF THE COMPANY.
WHAT?!
SGT. AWOL?

IT WAS YOUR COMPANY! YOU BUILT IT FROM THE GROUND UP! YOU!
CAN THEY EVEN DO THAT?
YES. THEY CAN.
THAT WAS THE RISK WE TOOK BY BECOMING A PUBLICLY TRADED CORPORATION. THE SHAREHOLDERS ARE THE REAL BOSS--AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKS FOR THEM.
IT'S OKAY, THOUGH. I GOT A GENEROUS SEVERANCE PACKAGE, WE'RE GOING TO BE FINE.
STILL, IT'S NOT A BAD IDEA TO TIGHTEN THE BELT A LITTLE UNTIL I GET BACK ON MY FEET. MARIA WILL HAVE NO TROUBLE GETTING A NEW JOB--AND WE CAN COOK AND CLEAN FOR OURSELVES FOR A WHILE.
YEAH, NO PROBLEM. I'LL MISS HER BUT--WE'LL BE FINE. ARE YOU SURE WE'RE GOING TO BE FINE?
YES. OF COURSE WE WILL.
UM, SIR?
THERE IS A GROUP OF MEN AT THE DOOR. I TRIED TO GET THEM TO LEAVE, BUT THEY REFUSED. THEY'VE TOLD ME SOMETHING ABOUT YOU USING COMPANY MONEY TO PURCHASE THIS HOME--SOMETHING ABOUT POSSIBLE TAX EVASION CHARGES.
THEY'RE REFUSING TO LEAVE UNTIL THEY SEE YOU.
WHAT? WHY ARE THEY HERE?

THEY SAY THEY'RE HERE TO *EVICT* YOU, SIR.
EVICT-- YOU MEAN RIGHT NOW?! THEY'RE GOING TO KICK US OUT OF OUR *HOME*?!
OH, GOD--OH, GOD!
IT'S FALLING APART-- IT'S ALL--
I'M SO SORRY.

image

THE ASTOUNDING

WOLF-MAN

4

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ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN

ROBERT KIRKMAN
writer

JASON HOWARD
penciler, inker, colorist

RUS WOOTON
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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN #4. December 2007. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 1942 University Avenue, Suite 305, Berkeley, California 94704.

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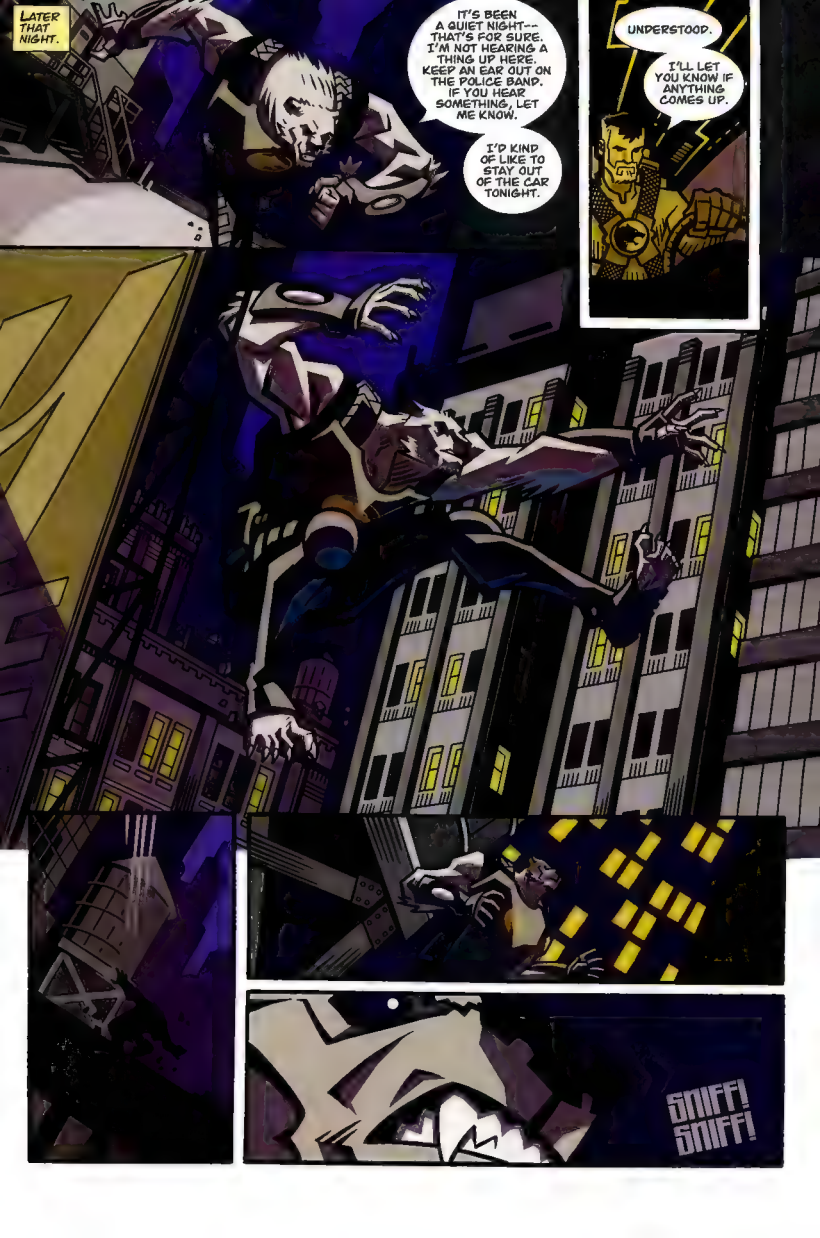
WESTEDGE
OUTLET CENTER
WHAT THE HECK, MOM? WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?
YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO SHOW ME OUR NEW PLACE--I DON'T WANT TO WAIT WHILE YOU GO SHOPPING--I WANT TO SEE IT NOW!
WELL...
YOU'RE JOKING--RIGHT?! YOU'VE GOT TO BE JOKING!
YOU KNOW, THE ONLY THING MORE HUMILIATING THAN HAVING TO RIDE THE BUS IS GETTING DROPPED OFF AT A HOTEL, AND THE ONLY THING WORSE THAN GETTING DROPPED OFF AT A HOTEL IS GETTING DROPPED OFF AT A STUPID STRIP MALL!
HONEY, YOU KNOW WE'VE HAD TO MAKE A LOT OF SACRIFICES SINCE YOUR FATHER LOST HIS JOB...
YEAH, I KNOW, AND I DON'T MEAN TO BE A BRAT--BUT A SHOPPING CENTER? IS THAT EVEN LEGAL? IS THIS AN OFFICE HE'S TURNED INTO A BEDROOM OR SOMETHING--THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
THIS PLACE IS A SECRET--I'LL EXPLAIN IT ALL ONCE WE'RE INSIDE, BUT DON'T MAKE A SCENE. PROMISE ME YOU WON'T MAKE A SCENE.
OKAY, MOM--OKAY.
SORRY.

OH MY GOD...
SHHH.
WHERE--?!
WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
THE UTILITY CLOSET? YOU ARE KIDDING ME.
YOU'RE JOKING.
JUST COME IN HERE.
OKAY-- BUT YOU'RE JOKING.
THIS IS SO STUPID.
THIS IS SO--
BEEP!
THIS WAY.
OKAY...
OKAY...
THIS IS KINDA COOL.

DING.
WHOA--
IS THAT A DOG?
NO--IT'S A WOLF... AND THIS ISN'T A HOTEL.
YOU CAN NEVER TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS PLACE, CHLOE. THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT, NO EXCEPTIONS.
MOM? WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
GARY--I DON'T KNOW HOW ELSE TO TELL HER BUT TO SHOW HER.
CHLOE, THIS IS GOING TO BE STARTLING... BUT I PROMISE EVERYTHING'S OKAY.
DON'T BE SCARED.
WHAT IS THIS PLACE? IS THIS SOME KIND OF FANCY SECRET HOTEL HIDDEN UNDER THE STRIP MALL?
IT'S NEAT... IT'S TOTALLY NEAT. I MEAN, ONCE I TAKE SOME FRIENDS HERE I MIGHT NOT EVEN GET MADE FUN OF FOR LIVING UNDER THE GAP.
I HOPE THE ROOMS ARE THIS COOL.

CALM DOWN, GIRL. IT'S ME IN HERE--YOUR DAD. I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU.
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF.
DO YOU REMEMBER MY ACCIDENT, ON OUR VACATION? I GOT INFECTED WITH SOMETHING THAT CAUSED THIS. HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT WOLF-MAN ON THE NEWS? I'VE BEEN USING THESE POWERS TO SAVE LIVES.
CHLOE?
...
I THINK SHE JUST NEEDS A MINUTE.
COME WITH ME, MA'AM... I'LL SHOW YOU YOUR ROOM.
I THINK WE'LL WAIT TO INTRODUCE ZECHARIAH.
THAT'S PROBABLY BEST.
WELL, HE'S PROBABLY WAITING ON ME. I'LL BE BACK IN THE MORNING.
BE CAREFUL.


LATER THAT NIGHT.
IT'S BEEN A QUIET NIGHT--THAT'S FOR SURE. I'M NOT HEARING A THING UP HERE. KEEP AN EAR OUT ON THE POLICE BAND. IF YOU HEAR SOMETHING, LET ME KNOW.
I'D KIND OF LIKE TO STAY OUT OF THE CAR TONIGHT.
UNDERSTOOD.
I'LL LET YOU KNOW IF ANYTHING COMES UP.
SNIFF! SNIFF!

KROOM!
IRK!
SHHHKKKK!
OH-- BACK FOR MORE?!
UMPH!
HKKK!
WRAMM!

UNGH.
CRACK!
I DIDN'T WANT TO... I COULDN'T HELP IT, HE WOULDN'T STOP. I DIDN'T MEAN--
YOU ARE VERY POWERFUL, ELDER BROOD-- BUT YOU HAVE YET TO REACH YOUR FULL POTENTIAL.
THERE WILL COME A TIME WHEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FIGHT ALL OF US OFF, DISPATCHING US INSTANTLY, WITH VERY LITTLE EFFORT.
BUT THAT TIME IS NOT TONIGHT. CHOOSE YOUR NEXT WORDS CAREFULLY. YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.
I SEE YOUR FRIEND ZECHARIAH IS KEEPING SOME VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM YOU.
YOU DON'T EVEN REALIZE YOU'RE ON THE WRONG SIDE.
WHAT IS "ELDER BROOD?" WHY DO YOU KEEP CALLING ME THAT?

WHERE IS HE?!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
YOU PROTECT HIM.
DISGRACEFUL.
WHUDD!
SVASSH!
ONE DAY YOUR POWERS WILL BE SUCH THAT YOU'D NEVER SUCCUMB TO SUCH A BEATING... AND WHEN THAT DAY COMES, I MAY REGRET THIS...
...BUT RIGHT NOW, THERE ARE MORE PRESSING CONCERNS AT HAND.

WROK!
SHLOKK!
WHUDD!
SKAKK!
KROK!
WHERE IS HE?!
WHERE--?!
...
IF YOU ONLY KNEW WHAT HE'D DONE... WHAT HE IS CAPABLE OF, YOU WOULDN'T PROTECT HIM--YOU'D KILL HIM FOR ME.
WHAT--?
WHAT DID HE DO?

GET AWAY FROM HIM!
NOW!
CHANGE BACK.
GO TO HUMAN FORM-- NOW.
I CAN'T-- THEY'LL KILL ME.
I'M HERE TO PROTECT YOU--DO IT NOW!
OKAY-- NOW WHAT?
CHANGE BACK-- QUICK!
YOU WERE A FOOL TO SHOW YOURSELF, ZECHARIAH. YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT OUT OF HERE ALIVE.
MY HEAD-- I'M SO DISORIENTED-- WEAK.
REGENERATING TAKES A LOT OF ENERGY... YOU'LL BE BACK UP TO FULL STRENGTH IN A MINUTE OR TWO-- WE'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE SURE YOU SURVIVE THAT LONG.

SUCH A GRAND ENTRANCE, AND JUST IN TIME, TOO. HOW CONVENIENT. JUST WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO TELL YOUR NEW FRIEND EXACTLY WHAT A MONSTER YOU REALLY ARE.
QUIET!
MURDERER!
WHAT IS IT, ZECHARIAH? WHAT IS IT THEY SAY YOU'VE DONE?
WHAT I DID, IT WAS... IT WASN'T MY FAULT, I--
A LIAR ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE, ZECHARIAH? REALLY?
YOU MAKE ME WANT TO PUKE!
YOUR FRIEND IS A VAMPIRE, ELDER-BROOD. I'M SURE YOU KNOW WHAT COMES WITH THAT... THE THIRST. I'M SURE HE DOESN'T BRING IT UP MUCH.
IT DRIVES HIS EVERY MOVE... HIS EVERY THOUGHT AND ACTION IS INFLUENCED BY HIS THIRST FOR BLOOD.
THE MORE POWERFUL THE CREATURE--THE LONGER THE BLOOD WILL SUSTAIN HIS UNDEAD BODY.
THE BLOOD OF A WEREWOLF, IF ENOUGH OF IT IS CONSUMED, WILL SUSTAIN HIM FOR MONTHS. THE ONLY PROBLEM IS, MOST WEREWOLVES WORK IN PACKS-- AND DRAINING THEIR BLOOD IS NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE.
BUT IF YOU CAN FIND A WEREWOLF CHILD... SOMETHING HELPLESS AND WEAK, NOT OLD ENOUGH TO FIGHT ANYTHING OFF...
...SOMETHING LIKE MY BABY GIRL!
STILL ONLY A CHILD WHEN LAID TO REST... KILLED AT THE HANDS OF THIS MONSTER!
I--
OH, GOD...

IS IT TRUE, ZECHARIAH?
WELL, IT'S MORE--
IS IT TRUE?!
IT'S TRUE. I DID IT... BUT YOU OF ALL PEOPLE, GARY, YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND WHAT I'VE GONE THROUGH-- WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOSE CONTROL!
THE THIRST IS FAR MORE SEVERE THAN ANY CURSE YOUR KIND SUFFERS. IT ALMOST TAKES OVER COMPLETELY, I SUCCUMB TO AN UNCONTROLLABLE BLOOD LUST--I'M LITTLE MORE THAN A RABID ANIMAL UNTIL I FEED.
MY ACTIONS WERE NOT MY OWN. I'VE TRIED TO EXPLAIN TO THESE PEOPLE BEFORE-- THEY WERE MY ALLIES... MY FRIENDS.
YOU SEE?! YOU SEE THE BEAST YOU CALL YOUR ALLY FOR WHAT HE TRULY IS.
THE GIRL, SHE... SHE WAS ALREADY SICK. I MUST HAVE...
I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER.
A CHILD?!

YOU KILLED A CHILD?!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO DRINK SO MUCH. I WOULD HAVE NEVER--
QUIET!
WE HAVE BEEN HUNTING HIM FOR YEARS--UNABLE TO CATCH UP TO HIM FOR LONG ENOUGH TO STRIKE. HE KNOWS WHAT HE DID... HE KNEW WE WERE AFTER HIM.
WHY DO YOU THINK HE SOUGHT YOU OUT? TO HELP YOU? TO MENTOR YOU? OR FOR PROTECTION?
YOU WOULD MAKE A VALUABLE ALLY.
SO THIS WAS ALL A PLOY TO TRICK ME INTO BEING YOUR BODY GUARD?! ALL THE ADVICE--ALL THE HELP?!
DID YOU WANT MY BLOOD?!
ANSWER ME!
I ALLOWED YOU INTO MY HOME! YOU WERE THERE--WITH MY FAMILY! WITH MY DAUGHTER!
I TRUSTED YOU!
GARY, PLEASE. YOU AND I ARE ALIKE. WE--

NO!
I AM NOT A MONSTER!
SHRAK!
POK!
POK!
...

YOU HAVE DONE THE RIGHT THING, ELDER BROOD. HE DID NOT DESERVE ANOTHER BREATH.
WITH ZECHARIAH FINALLY DEAD, WE CAN--
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I AM TO BRING HIM BACK WITH US--DISPLAY HIM FOR ALL TO SEE. OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS CLOSURE--THEY NEED TO SEE HE'S BEEN PUNISHED.
NO. IT'S MY KILL AND I WILL DISPOSE OF THE BODY. I OWE HIM THAT MUCH FOR MY BETRAYAL.
YOUR WORD WILL JUST HAVE TO BE ENOUGH.
THAT IS... ADMIRABLE. VERY WELL. I HAVE NO FURTHER WISH TO FIGHT YOU--SO HE IS YOURS TO DO WITH WHAT YOU WILL.
I AM THE ONE KNOWN AS JACOBSON. MY NAME CARRIES MUCH WEIGHT WITH SOME. YOU HAVE MADE A FRIEND HERE TODAY.
GOOD BYE.

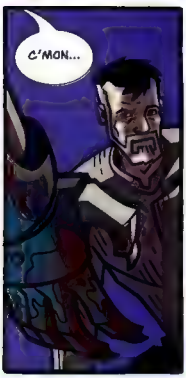
ARE THEY GONE YET?
YES... THEY ARE GONE. YOUR PLAN WORKED. VERY BRAVE... YOU HAD ME WORRIED FOR A BIT.
YOU WERE WORRIED? I WAS--
ZECHARIAH!
WHUMP!
I'M-- UGH--FINE. REALLY--THAT JUST, IT TOOK A LOT OUT OF ME. I'M KINDA SAPPED, BUT I'LL BE-- FINE.
JUST NEED A LITTLE BLOOD... THAT'S ALL.
TELL ME... IS WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT YOU TRUE?
YES.
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YOU BEFORE WHEN WE WERE PLANNING THIS. I WAS...
...ASHAMED.

DO I HAVE BLOOD ON MY HANDS? VERY MUCH SO... YES. BUT THOSE PEOPLE, JACOBSON AND HIS PACK--THEY'RE HYPOCRITES. I KNOW THEY'VE DONE THINGS JUST AS HORRIBLE AND UNSPEAKABLE AS ANYTHING I'VE DONE WHILE UNDER THE CONTROL OF MY BLOOD LUST... WHILE COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL.
THEY LOSE CONTROL EVERY MONTH, LIKE YOU--AND WITHOUT ANYONE TO TRAIN THEM HOW TO CONTROL THEIR POWERS, THEY DID MUCH MORE DAMAGE WHILE TEACHING THEMSELVES.
YOUR KIND IS NO BETTER THAN MINE... TRUST ME. I KNOW OF A TRIBE IN SOUTH AMERICA WHO BELIEVES GOD ENTERS THEIR BODIES ONCE A MONTH, TAKES OVER AND PUNISHES THE WICKED THROUGH THEM.

THEY LOOK FORWARD TO LOSING CONTROL.
THEY ENJOY IT.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PROVE YOURSELF TO ME. I--

I KNOW THAT, GARY. I DO. YOU WEREN'T A BAD PERSON BEFORE YOU WERE TURNED INTO WHAT YOU ARE. NEITHER WAS I.
AND I DIDN'T BECOME A BAD PERSON SIMPLY BECAUSE I WAS BITTEN. I AM WHO I ALWAYS WAS.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES THE THINGS WE DO... THE THINGS WE HAVE TO DO... SO HARD SOMETIMES.


C'MON...

LET ME HELP YOU UP.

THE SUN'S GOING TO BE UP SOON. I DON'T THINK I COULD WATCH YOU DIE TWICE IN ONE NIGHT.
ESPECIALLY IF ONE TIME WAS FOR REAL.
GOOD POINT. LET'S GET TO THE CAR.
SAME TIME TOMORROW NIGHT?
SAME TIME EVERY NIGHT.

ACROSS TOWN.
YOU CAN'T DO THIS! WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS ILLEGAL.
YOU CAN'T DO THIS--I'VE GOT RIGHTS. IT WAS A LEGAL PURCHASE ON MY PART AND I'M ENTITLED TO SELL IT.
SHUT UP.
NOW, TELL US HOW YOU GOT THE DISK.
IT'S A SURVEILLANCE DISK--WHERE DO YOU THINK I GOT IT? I ACQUIRED IT LEGALLY IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ASKING.
IF YOU'RE TRYING TO SCARE ME IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK. YOU EITHER PAY MY PRICE, OR RETURN MY PROPERTY AND LET ME GO.
LOOK, I'VE HAD OTHER OFFERS--BUT IF YOU LET ME GO, I'LL LOWER THE PRICE--OKAY?! YOU WIN--YOU GOT ME! OKAY?!
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
YOU CAN'T WATCH IT FOR FREE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
THAT'S MY PROPERTY! HEY!
CRAP--IT'S NOT A FAKE. THIS LOOKS LIKE THE REAL THING. GET HIM OUT OF HERE.

OH, GOD...
SERGEANT SUPERIOR IS DEAD.

OKAY... UGH... THAT REALLY TOOK IT OUT OF ME.
ALL RIGHT, PAL...I'M REALLY--I'M SORRY TO DO THIS.
REALLY SORRY--
I WAS SAVING YOU FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION... BUT IF I DON'T GET BLOOD SOON, I COULD ACTUALLY DIE.
AND YOU WOULDN'T WANT THAT--WOULD YOU?

...SERGEANT SUPERIOR?
I THOUGHT NOT. NOW, WAKE UP...
...I COULD REALLY USE A DRINK.

THE ASTOUNDING 5
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WOLF-MAN

hero or killer?

ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD

Sergeant Superior

image
5
ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD

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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN #5. March 2008. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 1942 University Avenue, Suite 305, Berkeley, California 94704.

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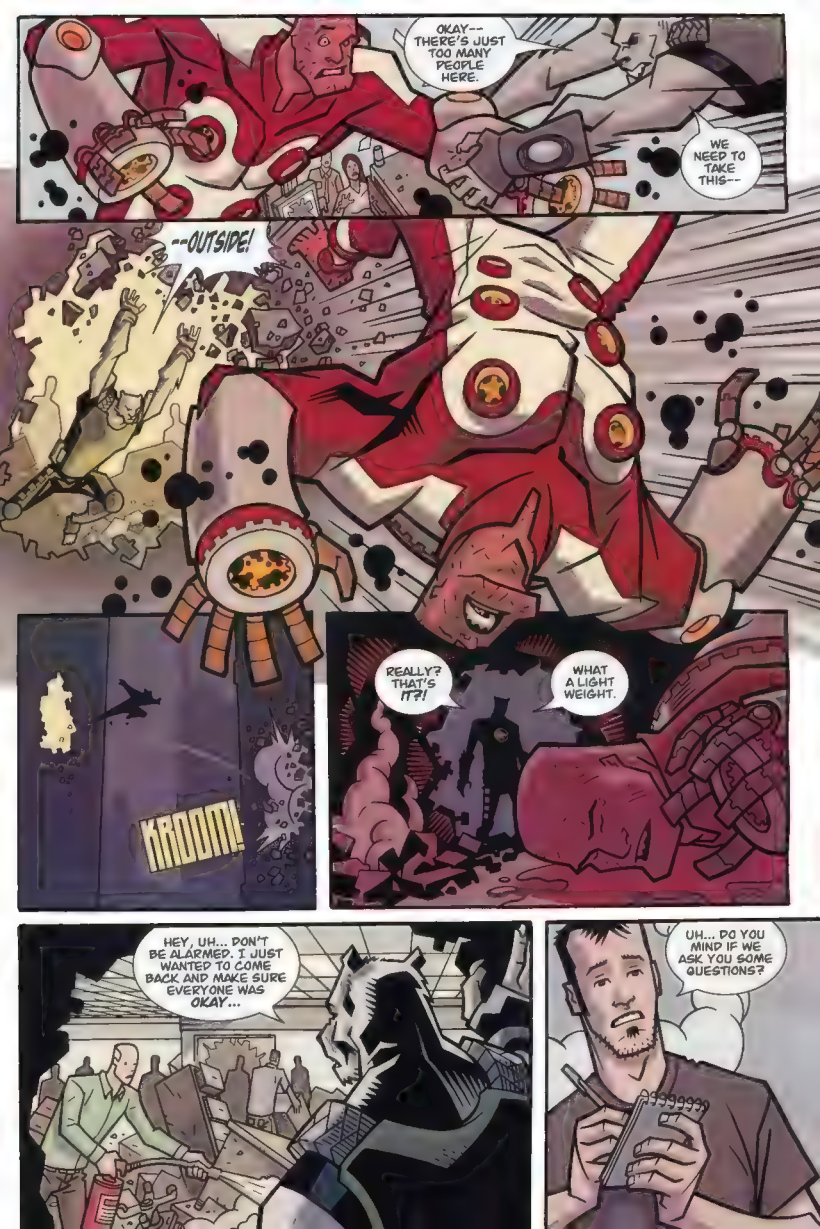
OFFICES OF THE NEW TRIBUNE.
SHOULDN'T WE AT LEAST TRY TO CONTACT HIM FIRST? GET HIS SIDE OF THE STORY?
The New
Hero or killer?
THIS IS US CONTACTING HIM. THIS WILL CALL HIM OUT, FORCE HIM TO MAKE A STATEMENT AND THEN WE'LL DO A FOLLOW-UP STORY ON HIM. HE'S A GIANT WEREWOLF FIGHTING CRIME--PEOPLE ARE SUSPICIOUS--THAT'S ALL THIS ARTICLE IS ABOUT.
WITH A SUGGESTIVE HEADLINE MEANT TO SELL PAPERS... I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS, EARL.
BRAKOOM!
YOU MAY KNOW ME AS ERECTOR--AND IF THAT SEEMS LIKE AN ILL-SUITED NAME FOR ME IT'S BECAUSE YOU RETARDS GOT IT WRONG!
I'M ERUPTOR! YOU GUYS COULDN'T TAKE THE TIME TO CHECK WITH THE POLICE?! MY NAME IS ON FILE--WAS YOUR PROOFREADER OUT SICK?!
I'M A LAUGHING STOCK THANKS TO YOU PEOPLE!
NOW I'M GOING TO WATCH YOU ALL ROAST!

BUSTING THROUGH THE SIDE OF A BUILDING CERTAINLY MAKES FOR A GRAND ENTRANCE--BUT YOU KNOW WHAT?!
IT CAUSES A HELL OF A LOT OF NOISE.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHO MIGHT BE NEARBY!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU--!
DIE!
FWOOOSH!
BURNT HAIR--NICE.
FWOOOSH!


OKAY-- THERE'S JUST TOO MANY PEOPLE HERE.
WE NEED TO TAKE THIS--
--OUTSIDE!
KRUUM!
REALLY? THAT'S IT?!
WHAT A LIGHT WEIGHT.
HEY, UH... DON'T BE ALARMED. I JUST WANTED TO COME BACK AND MAKE SURE EVERYONE WAS OKAY...
UH... DO YOU MIND IF WE ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS?

THE NEXT MORNING.
THE WESTEDGE OUTLET CENTER.
...AND ABOUT SIX STORIES BELOW.
WELL, YOU'RE THE BELLE OF THE BALL ALL OF A SUDDEN.
OH, YEAH?
The New Tribune
Wolf-Man—HERO!
No doubt about it.
YEAH, AND LISTEN TO THIS.
"THE POWERS ARE SOMEWHAT OF A BURDEN, BUT REGARDLESS, I'VE DECIDED TO USE THEM TO DO WHATEVER I CAN TO HELP PEOPLE..."
"SOMEWHAT OF A BURDEN"? IS THAT WHAT YOU CALL TURNING INTO A WILD ANIMAL AND ALMOST KILLING ME?!
COME ON, REBECCA. YOU KNOW I WOULD NEVER HURT YOU IN THAT STATE. ZECHARIAH SAID--
OH, ZECHARIAH SAID?
YOU DON'T SAY.

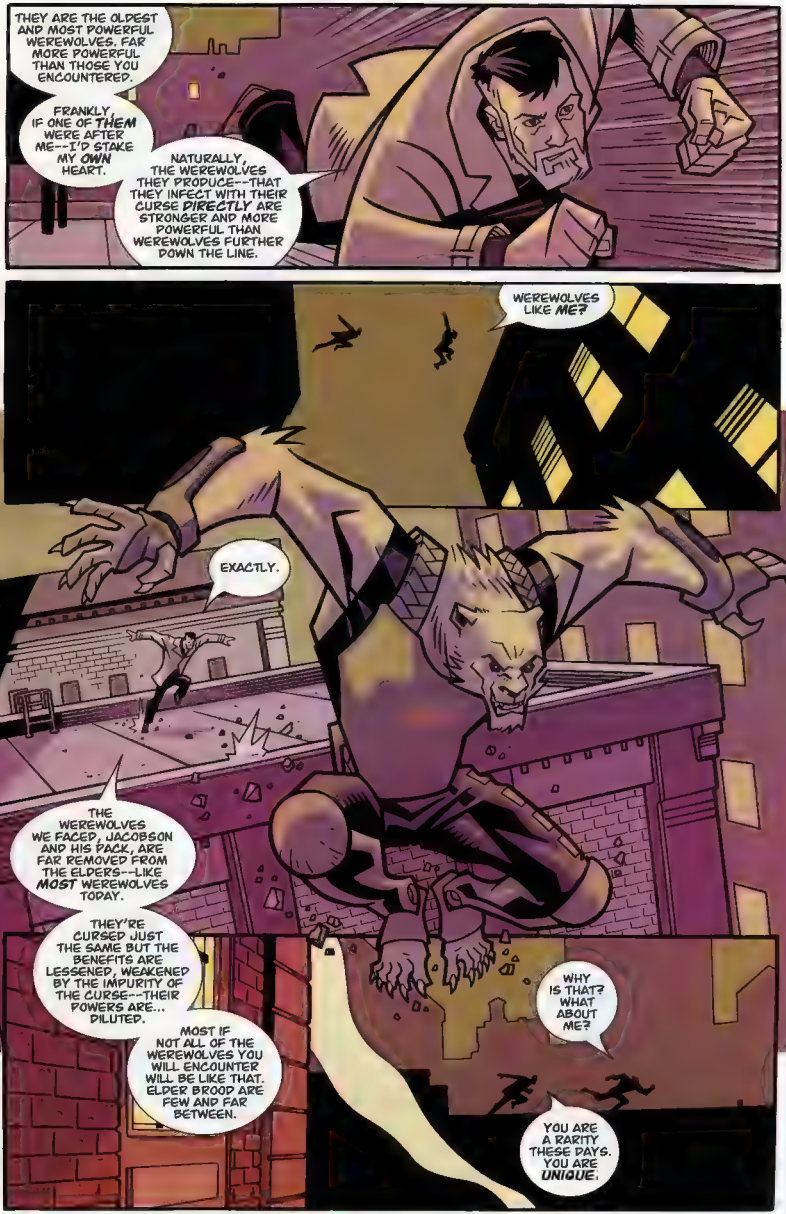
I DIDN'T HURT YOU, DID I?
FORGIVE ME IF THAT DOESN'T FILL ME WITH CONFIDENCE.
I DO RETAIN A BIT OF MYSELF--I HAVE A VERY SMALL AMOUNT OF CONTROL. I AM CONFIDENT THAT I WOULDN'T HURT YOU.
JUST THE SAME, I'VE TAKEN STEPS TO BE A BIT MORE SECURE. I'VE HAD SOMETHING MADE.
IT JUST SO HAPPENS, IT ARRIVED EARLIER TODAY.
I'M OFF TO SCHOOL, MOM.
YOU GOING TO GIVE US A HUG, PUMPKIN?
UM... BYE, DAD.
...
SHE'S JUST GOING TO NEED SOME MORE TIME, GARY.

KRROOM!!!
YOU ARE FOOLS TO ATTACK VAULT IN SUCH AN UNPLANNED, UNCOORDINATED ATTEMPT.
VAULT WILL KILL YOU ALL!
ACTIONEERS? PATHETIC! I'VE FACED FAR MORE ESTABLISHED SUPERHEROES THAN YOU!
THEY PUT YOUR ASS IN JAIL, TOO?
CHOOSH!!!
YOU ARE A COCKY ONE. WHAT MAKES YOU SO CONFIDENT YOUR PITIFUL TEAM WILL BE ABLE TO SUBDUE VAULT?
CALL IT A HUNCH...

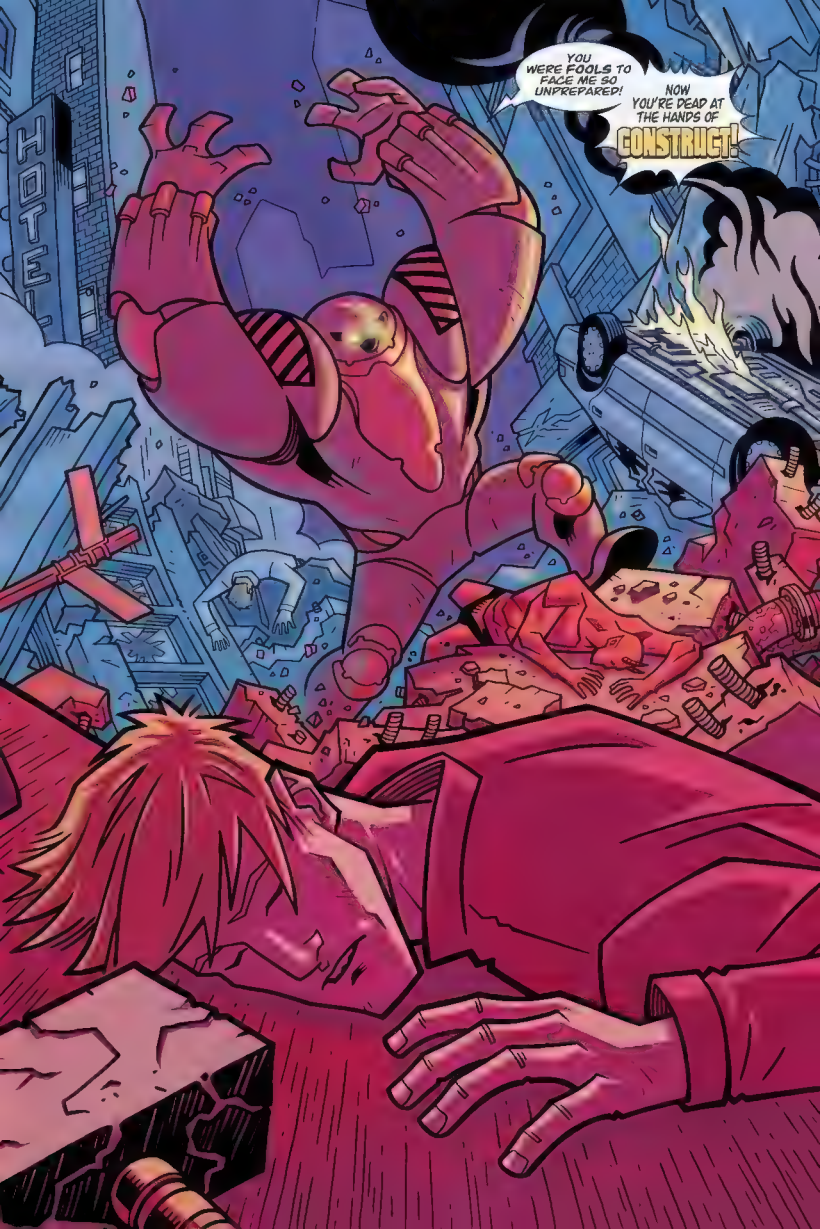
TRY NOT TO TWITCH, MECHA-MAID! IT'S GOING TO STRAIN MY POWERS TO TIME THIS RIGHT!
HUH--?
VRRMM
OKAY, GIRL-- NOW!
DO IT, NOW!
KLINK!
DONE AND DONE!
OKAY, THAT TOOK ABOUT AN EIGHTH OF A SECOND. IT'S EMBARRASSING HOW SIMPLE HIS ARMOR IS.
VERY LOW-TECH.
OKAY, WATCH THIS. HE'S GOING TO WALK TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION AND TURN HIMSELF IN.
THIS IS GREAT.
WHAT?! I CAN'T--!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!
VAULT WILL GET REVENGE!
HEH.
TOTALLY AWESOME.
WELL, GUYS-- THIS WAS A TOUGH ONE. WE'RE, UH-- IT'S NOT EASY WITH ONE LESS MEMBER OF THE TEAM...

WHAT ARE WE DOING--FIGHTING THIS LOSER WHEN WE COULD BE OUT FINDING THE MONSTER WHO KILLED SERGEANT SUPERIOR?!
SEE THAT SUN UP THERE, MINOTAUR?
THERE HAVE BEEN EXACTLY ZERO REPORTS ON WOLF-MAN OPERATING DURING THE DAY. UNLESS YOU KNOW THE HOLE HE'S HIDING IN--WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING UNTIL NIGHT.
THEN WE RESUME THE HUNT.
ONLY OPERATING AT NIGHT--YOU THINK HE'S GOT A DAY JOB--OR DO YOU THINK HE REALLY IS A... Y'KNOW.
WEREWOLF?! IT'S CERTAINLY A CONVINCING SUIT BUT I THINK IT'S ALL JUST A SCHTICK. IT'S A GIMMICK. PSYCHO MURDEROUS FREAK--DID ANY OF YOU SEE TODAY'S PAPER?!
I MEAN--- DID YOU SEE THAT?!
I DID.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?
I THINK WE SHOULD LEAK THAT TAPE TO THEM---SHOW THEM WHO WOLF-MAN REALLY IS.
THAT WOULD SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT.
NO.
THAT WOULD SEND EVERYONE FROM THE POLICE TO THOSE CLOWNS OVER AT CAPES INCORPORATED, TO POSSIBLY EVEN THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE AFTER HIM.
I WANT THIS SON OF A BITCH ALL TO MYSELF.

NOTHING IN THIS AREA... THINK YOU COULD TAKE THE TIME TO EXPLAIN "ELDER BROOD" TO ME WHILE WE CONTINUE OUR PATROL? IT'S KIND OF NAGGING AT ME.
OH, THAT...
YES. THAT.
IS THIS SOMETHING YOU MEAN TO KEEP FROM ME?
NO, NO. NOT AT ALL. IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
IT'S SIMPLY HARD TO EXPLAIN... IT'S SOMETHING I WAS WORKING UP TO TELLING YOU.
JUST START AT THE BEGINNING. WHY WOULD JACOBSON CALL ME "ELDER BROOD?" HE MADE REFERENCES TO ME BEING POTENTIALLY VERY POWERFUL.
WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?
IT MEANS THAT YOU ARE THE BROOD OF AN ELDER--DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT GOING TO STOP THERE. THE ELDERS ARE--
WELL, IT'S--IT'S UNCERTAIN EXACTLY WHEN WEREWOLFISM BEGAN OR WHERE IT ORIGINATED--BUT JUST LIKE YOU ARE ESSENTIALLY IMMORTAL, SO TOO ARE THE FIRST WEREWOLVES...
...THE ELDERS.


THEY ARE THE OLDEST AND MOST POWERFUL WEREWOLVES. FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN THOSE YOU ENCOUNTERED.
FRANKLY IF ONE OF THEM WERE AFTER ME--I'D STAKE MY OWN HEART.
NATURALLY, THE WEREWOLVES THEY PRODUCE--THAT THEY INFECT WITH THEIR CURSE DIRECTLY ARE STRONGER AND MORE POWERFUL THAN WEREWOLVES FURTHER DOWN THE LINE.
WEREWOLVES LIKE ME?
EXACTLY.
THE WEREWOLVES WE FACED, JACOBSON AND HIS PACK, ARE FAR REMOVED FROM THE ELDERS--LIKE MOST WEREWOLVES TODAY.
THEY'RE CURSED JUST THE SAME BUT THE BENEFITS ARE LESSENED, WEAKENED BY THE IMPURITY OF THE CURSE--THEIR POWERS ARE... DILUTED.
MOST IF NOT ALL OF THE WEREWOLVES YOU WILL ENCOUNTER WILL BE LIKE THAT. ELDER BROOD ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN.
WHY IS THAT? WHAT ABOUT ME?
YOU ARE A RARITY THESE DAYS. YOU ARE UNIQUE.

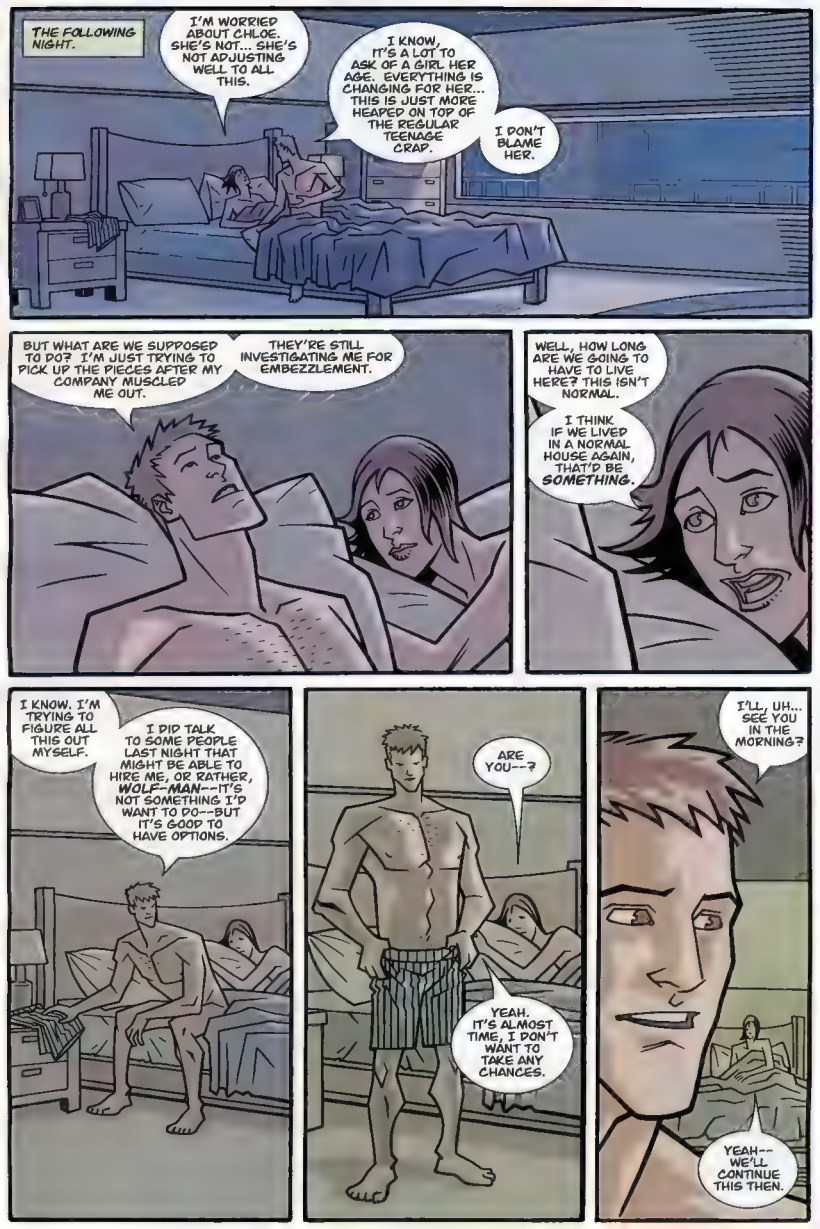
THE ELDERS ARE VERY SELECTIVE WITH THEIR CURSE. SOME SAY THE ELDERS DON'T TURN PEOPLE AT ALL ANY MORE.
WE KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE.
ANOTHER THEORY IS THAT THEY SEEK OUT THEIR BROOD--SELECT THEM BASED ON MERIT AND WORTHINESS.
THAT WOULD MEAN YOU WERE CHOSEN.
WHY? FOR WHAT?
WHO KNOWS? IT COULD BE ANYTHING.
MAYBE THE ELDERS ARE CRAZY--THEY COULD HAVE PICKED YOU FOR YOUR HAIR COLOR.
OR IT COULD HAVE BEEN SOMETHING SPECIFIC--BUT NOT IMMEDIATELY OBVIOUS.
YEAH... OF COURSE IT COULD--
I'M ON IT!
BOOM!!


YOU WERE FOOLS TO FACE ME SO UNPREPARED!
NOW YOU'RE DEAD AT THE HANDS OF CONSTRUCT!
HOTEL

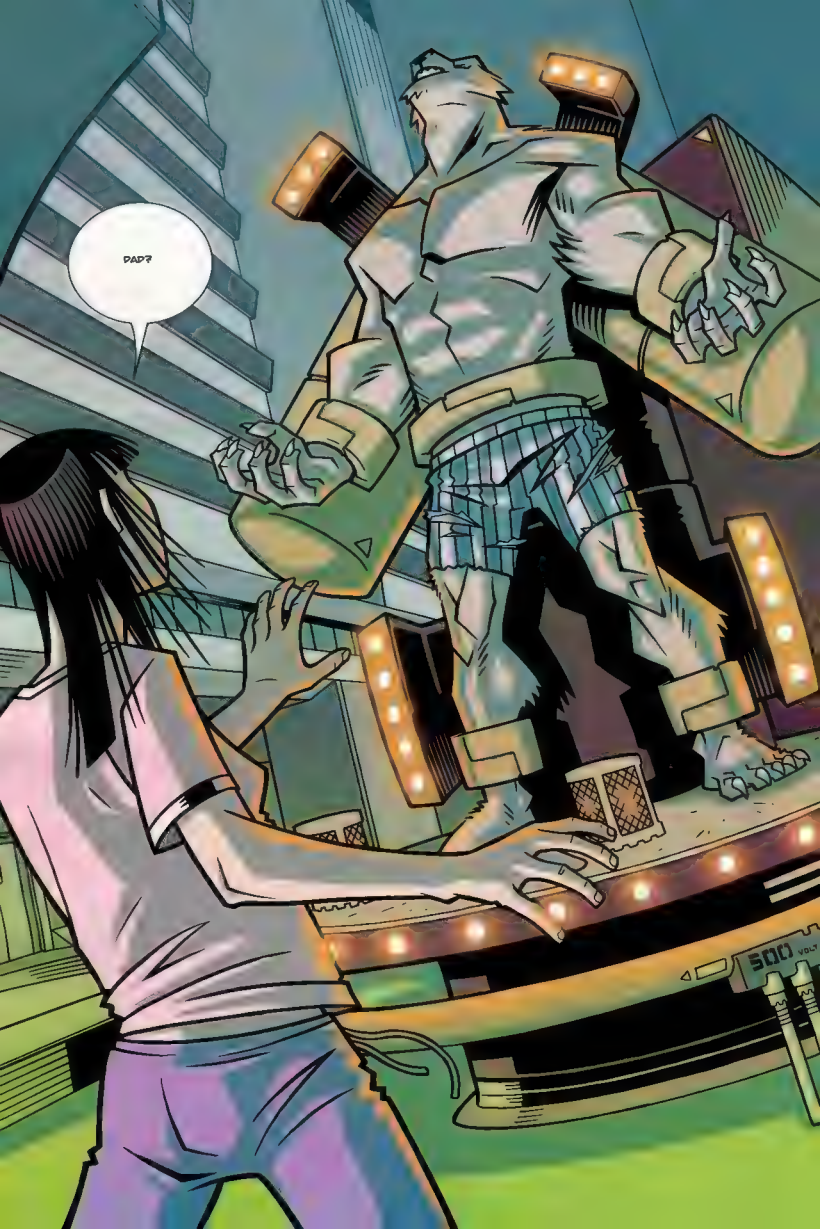
WRAMM!!
I'M UNSTOPPABLE! I CAN'T BE--
YOU KILLED THEM?! LOOK AT THE DAMAGE YOU'VE DONE! WHY?! WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS?!
IS IT MONEY?!
MONEY?! EVERYONE KNOWS MONEY IS USELESS! I'M DOING THIS TO SHOW MY POWER!
I'M SENDING A MESSAGE!
CONSTRUCT OWNS THIS TOWN!
KROOOM!
I'VE GOT POWERS I HAVEN'T EVEN USED YET!
PSSH! PSSH! PSSH! PSSH!
I KILLED THOSE OTHER SUPERHEROES---AND NOW I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!

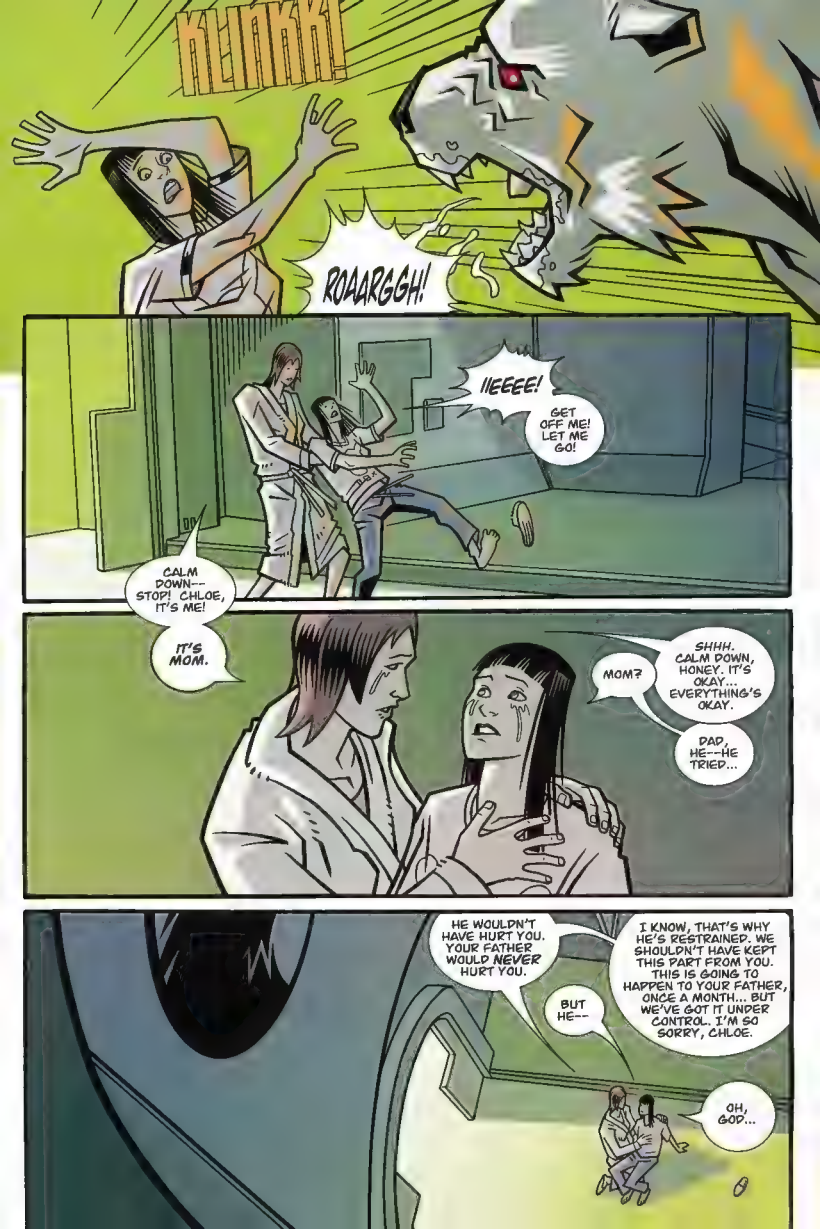
YOU MORON!
WE'RE NOT DEAD!
KLONGG!
GOOD TO SEE YOU GUYS ARE OKAY.
LET'S SEE JUST HOW TOUGH THIS GUY IS--
--ON THE INSIDE!
BUNK!
I GIVE--I GIVE UP, OKAY?! I WON'T HURT ANYONE! JUST DON'T TOUCH ME!
I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO TOUCH ME!
PLEASE-- JUST, JUST--STAY BACK!
UH... I GUESS WE CAN HANDLE THINGS FROM HERE, THEN. THANKS FOR THE HELP.
OH, WAIT. I READ ABOUT YOU IN THE NEWSPAPER. SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT THIS.
I'M KID THOR, THIS IS RED DEVIL. WE WORK FOR CAPES INCORPORATED. I KNOW THEY'RE LOOKING FOR MORE PEOPLE FOR THE NIGHT SHIFT.
THE PAY IS SUPER DECENT AND THE BENEFITS ARE SOLID.
JUST SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...
OKAY... THANKS.
I'LL DEFINITELY CONSIDER IT.

OVER HERE, ZECHARIAH.
OH.
YOU'RE GETTING FAST.
GOOD.
IF WE'RE LOOKING FOR ANSWERS, AND YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE ALL OF THEM--WHAT'S KEEPING US FROM JUST HUNTING DOWN THE ELDER WHO TURNED ME?
WE COULD JUST ASK OUR QUESTIONS DIRECTLY.
NOW, THERE'S AN IDEA.
OF COURSE, THAT'S NO SIMPLE TASK, TRACKING AN ELDER. IT COULD TAKE A WHILE, AND WE'D HAVE TO TRAVEL SOME DISTANCE. YOUR FINANCES DON'T SEEM ABLE TO FACILITATE SUCH AN EXCURSION.
LET ME WORRY ABOUT THAT.
I NEED ANSWERS--I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET THEM.
SO, I'M ON MY OWN TOMORROW NIGHT?
LOOKS THAT WAY, YES.


THE FOLLOWING NIGHT.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT CHLOE. SHE'S NOT... SHE'S NOT ADJUSTING WELL TO ALL THIS.
I KNOW, IT'S A LOT TO ASK OF A GIRL HER AGE. EVERYTHING IS CHANGING FOR HER... THIS IS JUST MORE HEAPED ON TOP OF THE REGULAR TEENAGE CRAP.
I DON'T BLAME HER.
BUT WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO? I'M JUST TRYING TO PICK UP THE PIECES AFTER MY COMPANY MUSCLED ME OUT.
THEY'RE STILL INVESTIGATING ME FOR EMBEZZLEMENT.
WELL, HOW LONG ARE WE GOING TO HAVE TO LIVE HERE? THIS ISN'T NORMAL.
I THINK IF WE LIVED IN A NORMAL HOUSE AGAIN, THAT'D BE SOMETHING.
I KNOW. I'M TRYING TO FIGURE ALL THIS OUT MYSELF.
I DID TALK TO SOME PEOPLE LAST NIGHT THAT MIGHT BE ABLE TO HIRE ME, OR RATHER, WOLF-MAN--IT'S NOT SOMETHING I'D WANT TO DO--BUT IT'S GOOD TO HAVE OPTIONS.
ARE YOU--?
YEAH. IT'S ALMOST TIME, I DON'T WANT TO TAKE ANY CHANCES.
I'LL, UH... SEE YOU IN THE MORNING?
YEAH-- WE'LL CONTINUE THIS THEN.

KLINK.
KLINK.
KLINK.
KLONG!
KLANNG!
KLUNKK!
...


DAD?


KLINKK!
ROAARGGH!
IIEEEE!
GET OFF ME! LET ME GO!
CALM DOWN--- STOP! CHLOE, IT'S ME!
IT'S MOM.
MOM?
SHHH. CALM DOWN, HONEY. IT'S OKAY... EVERYTHING'S OKAY.
DAD, HE--HE TRIED...
HE WOULDN'T HAVE HURT YOU. YOUR FATHER WOULD NEVER HURT YOU.
I KNOW, THAT'S WHY HE'S RESTRAINED. WE SHOULDN'T HAVE KEPT THIS PART FROM YOU. THIS IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOUR FATHER, ONCE A MONTH... BUT WE'VE GOT IT UNDER CONTROL. I'M SO SORRY, CHLOE.
BUT HE--
OH, GOD...

I KNOW, HONEY. I KNOW. IT'S GOING TO BE HARD BUT WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS.
YOU'LL SEE.
MOM, JUST--WHEN WILL IT BE OVER?
WILL IT EVER BE OVER?
AND WHAT IF THINGS DON'T EVER GET BETTER?
WHAT IF THEY JUST KEEP GETTING WORSE?

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6
$2.99
image
WOLF-MAN
ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN

ROBERT KIRKMAN
writer

JASON HOWARD
penciler, inker, colorist

RUS WOOTON
letterer

created by ROBERT KIRKMAN & JASON HOWARD

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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN #6. May 2008. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 1942 University Avenue, Suite 305, Berkeley, California 94704.

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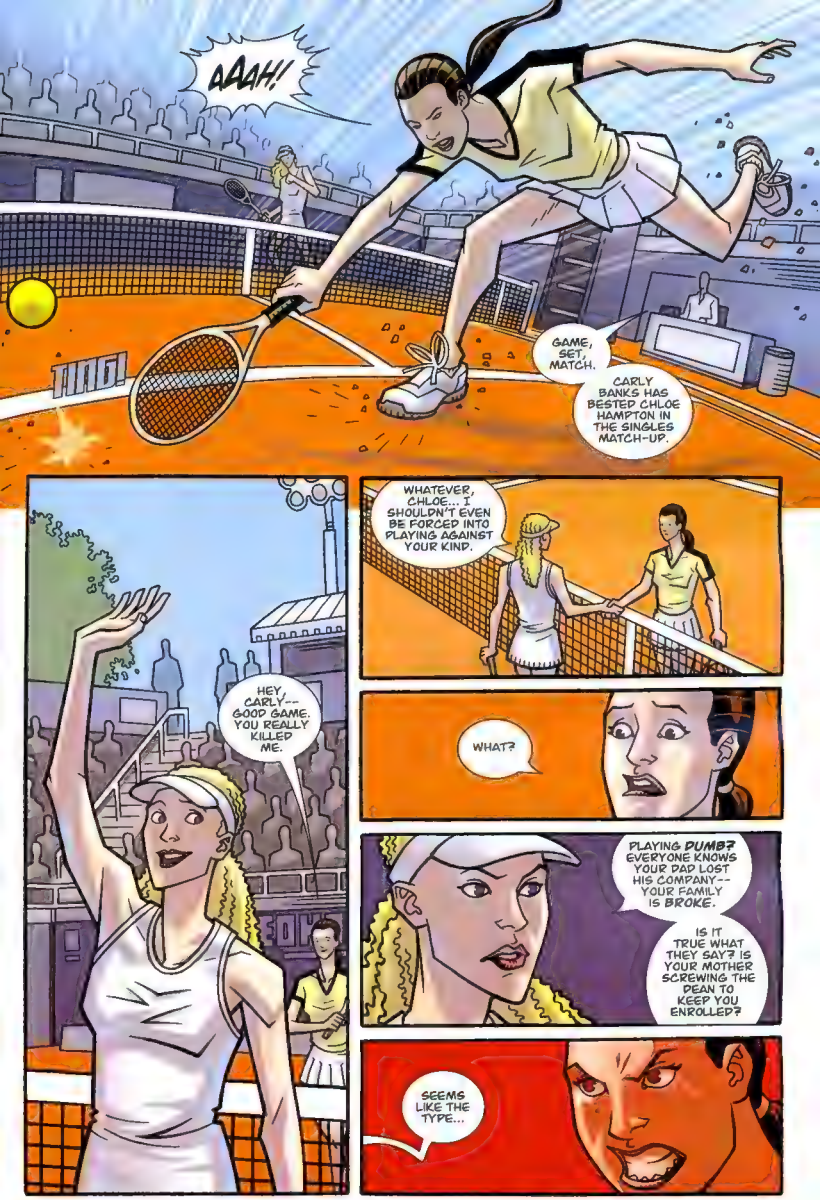

AAAH!
TING!
GAME, SET, MATCH.
CARLY BANKS HAS BESTED CHLOE HAMPTON IN THE SINGLES MATCH-UP.
HEY CARLY— GOOD GAME. YOU REALLY KILLED ME.
WHATEVER, CHLOE... I SHOULDN'T EVEN BE FORCED INTO PLAYING AGAINST YOUR KIND.
WHAT?
PLAYING DUMB? EVERYONE KNOWS YOUR DAD LOST HIS COMPANY-- YOUR FAMILY IS BROKE.
IS IT TRUE WHAT THEY SAY? IS YOUR MOTHER SCREWING THE DEAN TO KEEP YOU ENROLLED?
SEEMS LIKE THE TYPE...

WRAMM!!
OH, GOD.
SAY IT AGAIN!
GO AHEAD-- SAY IT AGAIN!
I DARE YOU!
GARY--!
I KNOW-- I'M GOING TO GET HER--
CHLOE!

THE WESTEDGE OUTLET CENTER, BUILT ATOP WOLF-MAN'S SECRET LAIR.
DING.
CHLOE--WHAT ARE YOU--?
I'M GOING TO MY ROOM!
GARY, JUST LET HER GO.
12
WE CAN'T JUST LET HER HIDE IN HER ROOM--WE'VE GOT TO--
I'LL GO TALK TO HER.
DID SHE WIN?

CHLOE, CAN WE TALK?
DO WE HAVE TO?
YES. WE DO.
LOOK, MOM-- I KNOW WHAT I DID WAS WRONG. I JUST LOST CONTROL. I KNOW IT LOOKED LIKE I WAS FLIPPING OUT-- BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE SAID TO ME.
WHAT DID SHE SAY TO YOU?
I CAN'T TELL YOU-- BUT THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN TAUNTED, IT'S KIND OF A REGULAR THING NOW... SINCE DAD--
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I'M THE LAUGHING STOCK OF MY SCHOOL!
EVERYBODY HATES ME!
WHAT? WHY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THEY'RE CONSTANTLY MAKING FUN OF ME... MY FRIENDS DON'T EVEN TALK TO ME ANYMORE--THEY'RE EMBARRASSED.
IT GOT OUT THAT WE WERE LIVING IN THAT HOTEL-- THEY CALL ME THE HOMELESS GIRL.
DAD RUINED EVERYTHING.
WHY DID HE LET ALL THIS HAPPEN?
I THINK I HATE HIM.

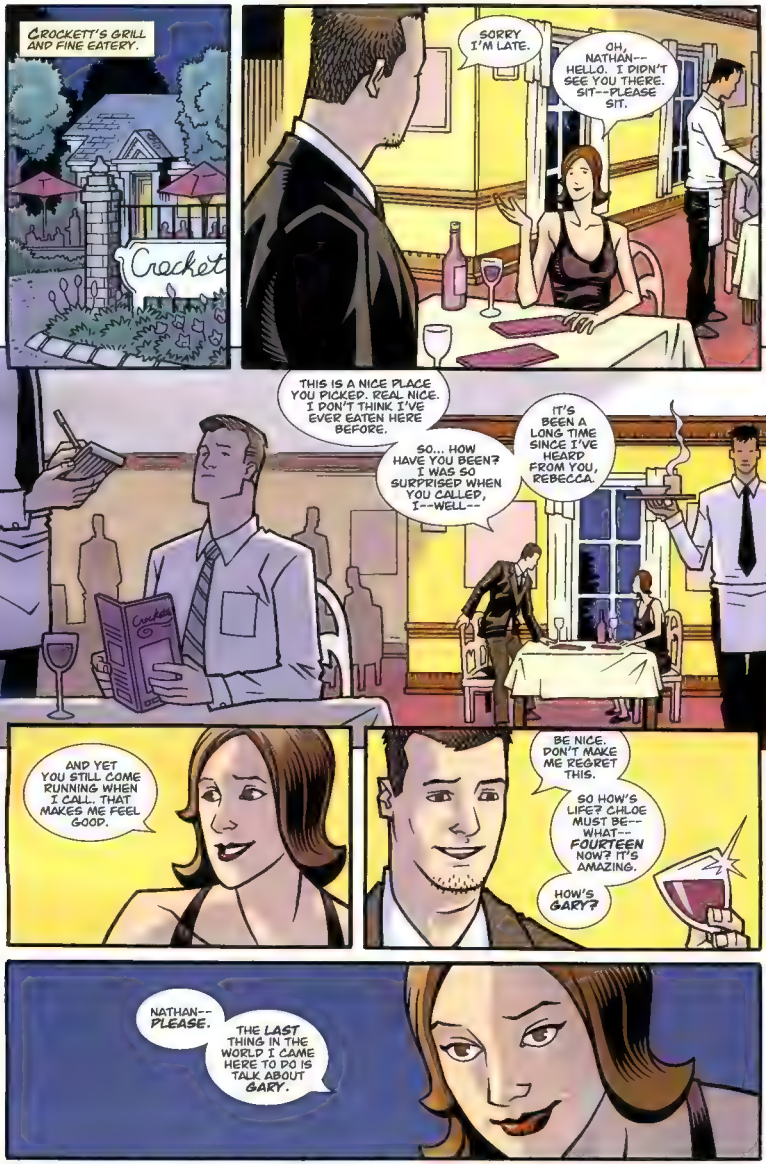
GARY, HOW LONG HAVE YOU--?
LONG ENOUGH.
SHE'S JUST A CHILD. THESE THINGS HAPPEN.
IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING.
MAYBE THAT WOULD BE ENOUGH IF WE WERE A NORMAL FAMILY--BUT WITH EVERYTHING GOING ON, WHO COULD BLAME HER.
I KNOW I WOULD HATE ME.
AFTER THINGS STARTED GOING SOUTH--I SEE, I SEE THE WAY YOU LOOK AT ME. HOW IT'S CHANGED.
I SEE IT IN YOUR EYES, YOU DON'T RESPECT ME LIKE YOU USED TO--AND NOW, NOW YOU ALSO FEAR ME. I DON'T LIKE IT.
GARY-- I--
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...
I'M GOING TO GO.
I'LL SEE YOU IN THE MORNING.
GARY...

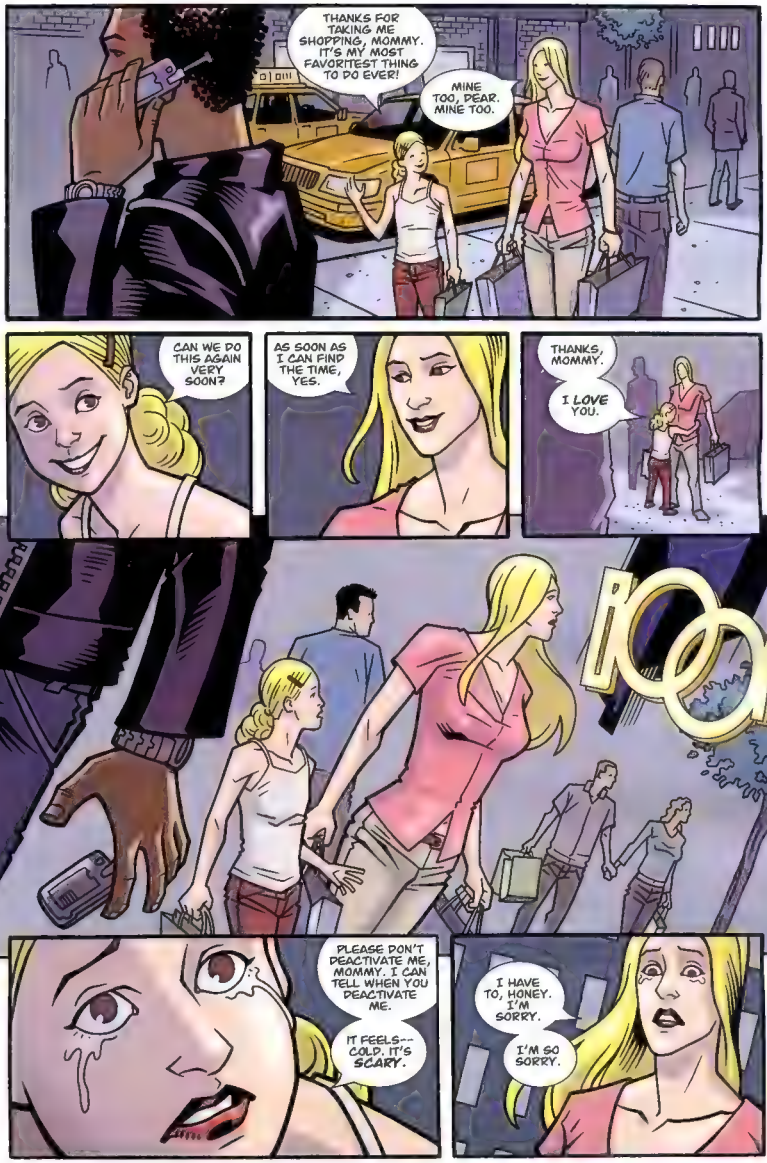
LATER THAT NIGHT.
WE'LL NEVER GET FAR ENOUGH AHEAD OF THEM LIKE THIS--I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD HAVE DOUBLED BACK AND GOTTEN THE CAR!
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
BLOWING OFF SOME STEAM.
WEEOOWEEOOWEEOO!
WEEOOWEEOOWEEOO!
POLICE
POLICE
POLICE
KA-BOOM!!

SKKSSSH!
THUD!
THUD!
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING, RUNNING FROM THE COPS LIKE THAT? YOU COULD HAVE KILLED SOMEONE.
NOT COPS...
...NEVER RUNNING FROM COPS.
ROCERY

...RUNNING FROM HIM.

WHOA!
YOU'RE PROTECTING HIM?! DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE'S DONE?!
WRAMM!!
HE DIDN'T LAST LONG.
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
YOU'VE GOT TO--GOT TO MAKE THEM STOP! NUMBER SEVEN, THEY--WE CALL HIM IMPACT. HE ABSORBS THE KINETIC ENERGY OF OBJECTS IMPACTING AGAINST HIM--
THE BULLETS WILL ONLY MAKE HIM STRONGER!
THANKS FOR THE HEADS-UP, DOC.
WE, UH--I THINK WE NEED TO BE SOMEWHERE ELSE.
GIVE HIM--
--TO ME!


CROCKETT'S GRILL AND FINE EATERY.
Crocket
SORRY I'M LATE.
OH, NATHAN--- HELLO. I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE. SIT--PLEASE SIT.
THIS IS A NICE PLACE YOU PICKED. REAL NICE. I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER EATEN HERE BEFORE.
SO... HOW HAVE YOU BEEN? I WAS SO SURPRISED WHEN YOU CALLED, I--WELL--
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE HEARD FROM YOU, REBECCA.
Crocket
AND YET YOU STILL COME RUNNING WHEN I CALL. THAT MAKES ME FEEL GOOD.
BE NICE. DON'T MAKE ME REGRET THIS.
SO HOW'S LIFE? CHLOE MUST BE--WHAT--FOURTEEN NOW? IT'S AMAZING.
HOW'S GARY?
NATHAN--PLEASE.
THE LAST THING IN THE WORLD I CAME HERE TO DO IS TALK ABOUT GARY.


THANKS FOR TAKING ME SHOPPING, MOMMY. IT'S MY MOST FAVORITEST THING TO DO EVER!
MINE TOO, DEAR. MINE TOO.
CAN WE DO THIS AGAIN VERY SOON?
AS SOON AS I CAN FIND THE TIME, YES.
THANKS, MOMMY.
I LOVE YOU.
BOOM
PLEASE DON'T DEACTIVATE ME, MOMMY. I CAN TELL WHEN YOU DEACTIVATE ME.
IT FEELS--COLD. IT'S SCARY.
I HAVE TO, HONEY. I'M SORRY.
I'M SO SORRY.

WRAMM!!
OKAY--I'M MAKING ZERO PROGRESS HERE. HE'S JUST GETTING MADDER.
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN WALK? YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE. JUST RUN--HIDE SOMEWHERE. I'LL KEEP HIM AWAY FROM YOU.
I THINK I CAN DO THAT--YES.
ACTIONEERS ALERT! THIS IS MECHA-MAID REPORTING--I HAVE OUR TARGET IN SIGHT. REPEAT, I HAVE OUR TARGET IN SIGHT.
I'M ENGAGING NOW--PLEASE ASSIST.
KROOM!!!
WHERE DID HE GO? WHERE?!
IF YOU LET HIM ESCAPE--SO HELP ME--I'LL KILL YOU INSTEAD!

INTERESTING--MY SCANS OF YOUR GENETIC STRUCTURE REVEAL YOU'RE SOME KIND OF--HUMAN BATTERY, CHARGED BY KINETIC ENERGY.
YOUR CELLS ARE SIMPLY REMARKABLE.
HUH?
WHO ARE YOU?
I'M THE WOMAN WHO FIGURED OUT HOW TO TURN YOU OFF.
BZZZPCHKT!
OF COURSE, I USE THE TERM "WOMAN" LOOSELY.
WOW, I'M GLAD YOU WERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
DON'T BE SO GRATEFUL, I'M--
WHAT THE--?
THERE HE IS! GET HIM INTO THE VAN WHILE I CLEAR THINGS WITH THE AUTHORITIES. GO!

MURDERER!
BRAKOOM!

WRAMM!!!
WRAMM!!!
YOU KILLED HIM!
WRAMM!!!
WRAMM!!!
YOU KILLED MY FRIEND!
LADY--
--BACK OFF!
CHOOM!!!

DON'T TOUCH HER!
WHA-KOOM!
JUST IGNORE THEM! GET IMPACT BACK IN THE VAN BEFORE THINGS GET ANY WORSE!
HURRY!
SEVEN

I KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE--AND I'M SORRY--MORE THAN YOU COULD EVER KNOW...
BUT IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK. IF YOU JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE TO EXPLAIN--
EXPLAIN?!
EXPLAIN WHAT? HOW YOU MURDERED SERGEANT SUPERIOR IN COLD BLOOD?!
WHAT IS THERE TO EXPLAIN?!
WRAMM!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--JUST STOP.
STOP AND LET ME--
KHOOM!
OKAY, EVERYONE! STAND ASIDE--
--HE'S MINE!
KRUNH!!

PLEASE! I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU!
I'M NOT GIVING YOU A CHOICE!
CHOOM!
POW!
I WASN'T READY FOR YOU EARLIER--I DIDN'T KNOW HOW FAST YOU WERE. YOU CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD.
NOT THIS TIME--I KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT. YOU'RE GOING DOWN!
I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU PAY FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
VRAMM!
PLEASE--
SHUT UP!
THE LAST THING IN THE WORLD I NEED RIGHT NOW IS TO HEAR YOUR VOICE!

SERGEANT SUPERIOR WAS A HERO--HE SAVED COUNTLESS LIVES--HE WAS A GREAT MAN!
BOOM!
YOU SPILLED HIS BLOOD--NOW I'M SPILLING YOURS!
CHOOM!
YOU KILLED HIM--
NOW I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!
NO, PLEASE--
KINETIC, NO--THIS ISN'T YOU--THIS ISN'T THE ACTIONEERS--THIS ISN'T WHAT WE DO.
YOU CAN'T DO THIS!
I CAN, DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT HE DID? WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF? HE--
HE--
KINETIC--

LET HIM GO.
SERGEANT SUPERIOR, YOU'RE---
YOU'RE ALIVE?!
NOT EXACTLY.

THE ASTOUNDING
7
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WOLF-MAN
ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD

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WRAMM!!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

WHAT HAVE YOU TURNED HIM INTO--YOU MONSTER?!
KINETIC, PLEASE--YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THIS. NONE OF THIS IS HIS FAULT.
IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO REALIZE THIS... BUT IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
YOU DIED... DIDN'T YOU?
I THOUGHT I KILLED YOU. I THOUGHT I--
YOU DID... FOR THE MOST PART. YOU LEFT ENOUGH OF ME FOR YOUR FRIEND ZECHARIAH TO BRING ME BACK.
HE'S WAITING FOR YOU--JUST GO, I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO MY FRIENDS.
YOU CAN'T LET HIM GO!
NOT AFTER WHAT HE DID!
WE CAN--AND WE ARE. JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE TO EXPLAIN. YOU'LL UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING WHEN I'M DONE.
I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE HERE, MAN...
START EXPLAINING!
TRUST ME, WHEN I'M DONE--EVERYTHING WILL MAKE PERFECT SENSE...

A-1 MECHANICAL
THUDD!
:SNIFF!:
:SNIFF!:
YOU CAN COME OUT NOW.
MECHANICAL
YOU'RE GETTING BETTER AT THAT. I WAS STANDING UPWIND.
VERY IMPRESSIVE.
SO... I GUESS YOU MET OUR FRIEND? I'M SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YOU SOONER.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU HAD HIM?
SINCE YOU ATTACKED HIM... I TOOK HIM RIGHT AWAY.

YOU DIDN'T TELL ME?!
YOU ALLOWED ME TO BELIEVE I'D KILLED HIM?! YOU JUST LET ME THINK THAT? YOU LEFT ME WITH THAT GUILT?!
DAMN IT, ZECHARIAH--TALK TO ME!
TECHNICALLY, YOU DID KILL HIM. THAT DIDN'T CHANGE.
IT WAS WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT I NEVER TOLD YOU ABOUT.
SO YOU TURNED HIM INTO A VAMPIRE?! WHAT ELSE ARE YOU KEEPING FROM ME?
IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE HIM... AND IT SAVED YOU TONIGHT. YOU SHOULD BE THANKING ME.
I CAN'T DECIDE IF I SHOULD BE RELIEVED THAT HE'S ALIVE---OR MORE GUILTY OVER WHAT I FORCED HIM TO BECOME.
HOW COULD YOU KEEP THIS FROM ME?!
I CAN'T TRUST YOU!

WE'RE THROUGH.
I WANT YOU OUT OF MY LIFE.
YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE.
AM I?
I DON'T THINK SO... I'M STARTING TO THINK YOU WANTED ME TO KILL SERGEANT SUPERIOR--I THINK THIS WAS ALL PART OF YOUR PLAN.
I'M SICK OF FEELING USED BY YOU--DESPITE YOUR ASSURANCES.
SINCE I MET YOU, MY LIFE HAS SPIRALED OUT OF CONTROL TO THE POINT WHERE I NEEDED YOU. I DON'T KNOW WHY I DIDN'T SEE IT BEFORE.
GARY, TRUST ME--YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS.
LISTEN TO ME.
NO.
I'M THROUGH LISTENING TO YOU.

THE WESTEDGE OUTLET CENTER, BUILT ATOP WOLF-MAN'S SECRET LAIR.
WESTEDGE
OUTLET CENTER
VMMM!
HEY--- WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOUR LAWYER CALLED. APPARENTLY THEY CLOSED THE EMBEZZLEMENT INVESTIGATION EARLIER TONIGHT. YOU'VE BEEN CLEARED. OUR ASSETS HAVE BEEN UNFROZEN.
WE CAN GO BACK HOME.
TONIGHT?
CHLOE IS SLEEPING.
NO. I'M JUST GETTING READY. CHLOE AND I ARE MOVING BACK IN TOMORROW MORNING.
WITHOUT YOU.
WHAT?!

YOU'VE SEEN WHAT YOUR NEW LIFE HAS DONE TO US. THIS ISN'T--GARY, THIS JUST ISN'T WORKING.
WE NEED TO SEPARATE. I'M NOT SAYING DIVORCE... NOT YET. I JUST WANT TO STEP BACK AND LOOK THINGS OVER.
I THINK IT'S THE BEST THING FOR US NOW.
REBECCA, PLEASE-- THIS IS... THIS IS JUST SO SUDDEN. YOU CAN'T BE, I MEAN, YOU JUST DECIDED THIS... ALREADY?
WE CAN'T TALK THIS OVER? WE CAN'T--
YOU'RE JUST LEAVING?
I AM.
I KNOW THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN PERFECT BUT THINGS WILL GET BETTER, I PROMISE. I-- I'M HOME EARLY TONIGHT.
I TOLD ZECHARIAH I'M THROUGH WITH HIM--HE'S HIDDEN TOO MUCH, I'M NOT LETTING HIM TRAIN ME ANYMORE. I CAN DO THIS ON MY OWN AND BE HERE FOR YOU MORE.
PLEASE JUST GIVE ME A CHANCE.
LET ME DO THIS, GARY. I NEED THE SPACE... THE TIME.
I'VE GOT TO FINISH PACKING.
12

DUNFORD, EVERYTHING--IT'S ALL FALLING APART, ISN'T IT?
I'M SORRY, GARY... THIS MUST BE VERY DIFFICULT--YOU'VE CERTAINLY SEEN BETTER TIMES.
I THINK IT MIGHT BE MORE THAN THAT--I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HOW ZECHARIAH CALLED MY TRANSFORMATION A CURSE.
I REMEMBER THINKING, "REALLY?"
EVEN AFTER WE WERE EVICTED, THE CHARGES AGAINST ME, LOSING MY COMPANY--I NEVER SAW A CONNECTION. I THOUGHT BEING WOLF-MAN WAS A BLESSING--AT LEAST I HAD THAT, I'D THINK.
NOW... I JUST DON'T KNOW ANYMORE.

WHEN THIS ALL STARTED, I JUST... I THOUGHT IT WAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK IN A TANGIBLE, VISIBLE WAY. I GIVE TO CHARITY... I HELP THE COMMUNITY BUT IT NEVER FELT LIKE ENOUGH.
MY SUCCESS... IT ALWAYS BROUGHT ME SUCH AN OVERWHELMING FEELING OF GUILT, SEEING ALL THOSE AROUND ME, NOT DOING AS WELL--SEEING THE PEOPLE OF MY COMMUNITY STRUGGLE.
I THOUGHT THEY UNDERSTOOD, REBECCA... CHLOE. I THOUGHT THEY WOULD KNOW WHAT GOOD I WAS DOING--PROTECTING PEOPLE.
HOW COULD I HAVE EVER EXPECTED THEM TO ACCEPT IT, MY ABSENCE--ALL THE BAD FORTUNE WE'VE EXPERIENCED?
YOU COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN, SIR.
THIS ISN'T YOUR FAULT.
17
NO, DUNFORD--YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
BEING WOLF-MAN HAS RUINED MY LIFE.
17
IT HAS TO STOP.
I HAVE TO STOP.
17

OH, UM--
SORRY.
UH...
I JUST HAVE TO TELL YOU--YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW, I LOVE YOU AND I WILL FIX THIS.
GO TO THE HOUSE, TAKE CHLOE, BUT KNOW I AM GOING TO FIX THIS. I WILL NOT LOSE YOU. I WILL MAKE THIS RIGHT.
YOU'D BETTER.
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU TOO MUCH TO LET YOU RUIN EVERYTHING.

REBECCA, WE NEED TO TALK. I NEED YOUR HELP.
ABOUT WHAT? GARY TOLD ME HE SHUT YOU OUT. YOU DON'T GET TO BOSS HIM AROUND ANYMORE, ZECHARIAH-- AND FRANKLY, I NEVER LIKED YOU!
WHY THE HELL WOULD I EVER TALK HIM INTO WORKING WITH YOU AGAIN?
HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND-- YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--
YOUR HUSBAND HAS POWERS-- DANGEROUS POWERS--THAT HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT. HE NEEDS ME.
BAD THINGS COULD HAPPEN IF--
SKRAK!
GET YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF ME!
YOU...
YOU STRUCK ME...

HOW DARE YOU STRIKE ME?!
WRAKK!
...
REBECCA... OH, NO-- DON'T--
OH, GOD--
OH, GOD PLEASE...

OH, GOD...
OH, GOD NO.

WHAT DID YOU DO?!
GARY--NO! THIS ISN'T WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! YOU HAVE TO--!!
WHAT DID YOU DO?!
IT WAS SUPERIOR-- HIS SUPER-HUMAN BLOOD! IT WAS--

I'D FORGOTTEN HOW STRONG IT MAKES YOU-- AND THE THIRST--IT RETURNS FASTER-- STRONGER! I COULDN'T RESIST!
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
NO!
NO MORE LIES!
CHOMP!
NO.
NO.
NO.
AARRRGGH!!

...
CHLOE, NO. PLEASE NO.
THIS ISN'T--
I--

PLEASE, HONEY--- JUST COME HERE.
DON'T BE SCARED--
PLEASE--
ST--
STAY AWAY, PLEASE--
PLEASE DON'T HURT ME.

GARY, MY GOD-- WHAT'S HAPPENED?!
PROMISE ME YOU'LL TAKE CARE OF CHLOE.
WHAT ARE YOU--?!
JUST SAY IT!
OKAY-- OKAY.
CLICK.
...

UNGH.

IT IS DONE, MY MASTER.
THIS IS WRONG... THIS IS ALL WRONG.
THIS ISN'T HOW THINGS WERE SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN.

image
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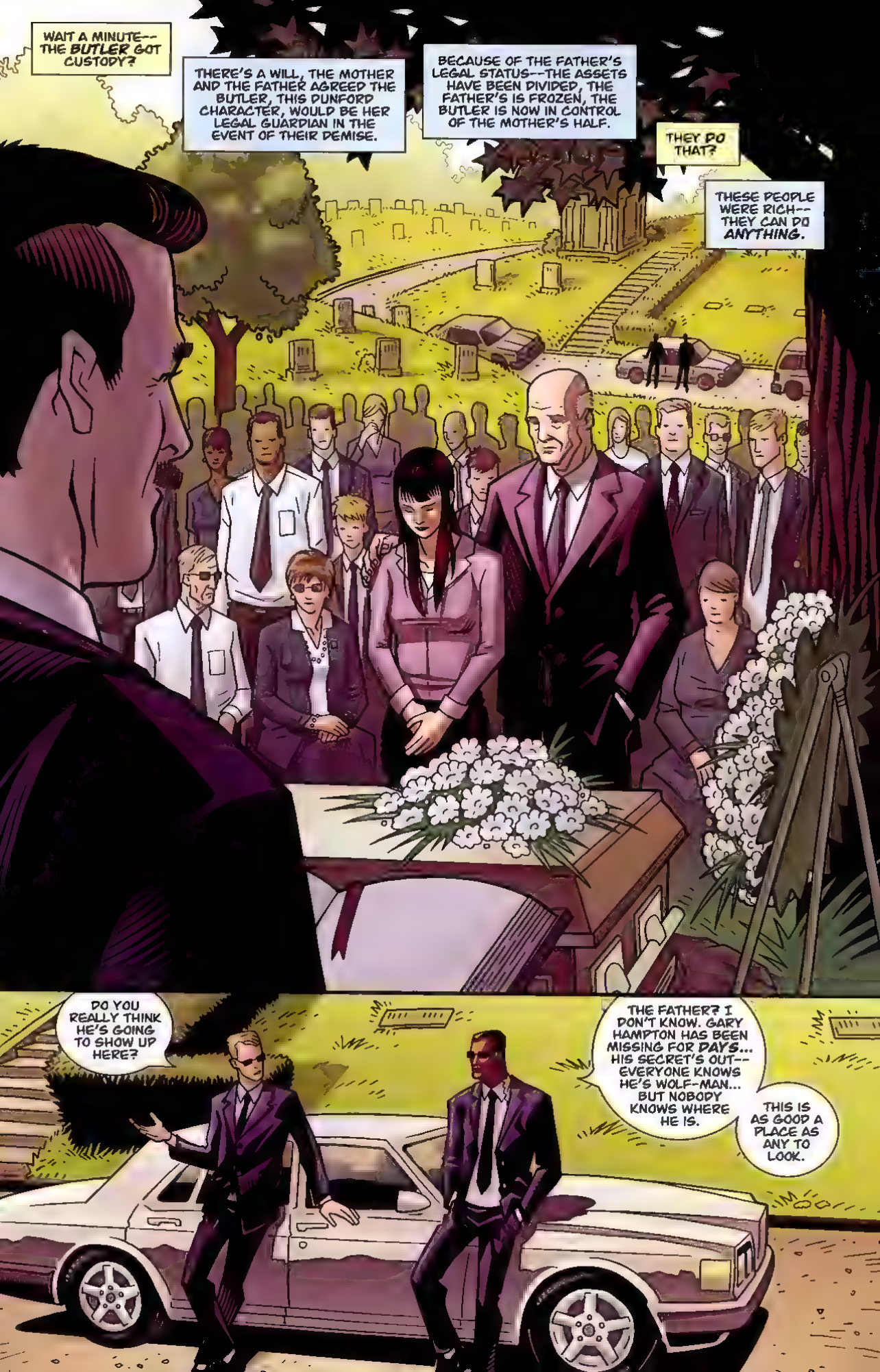
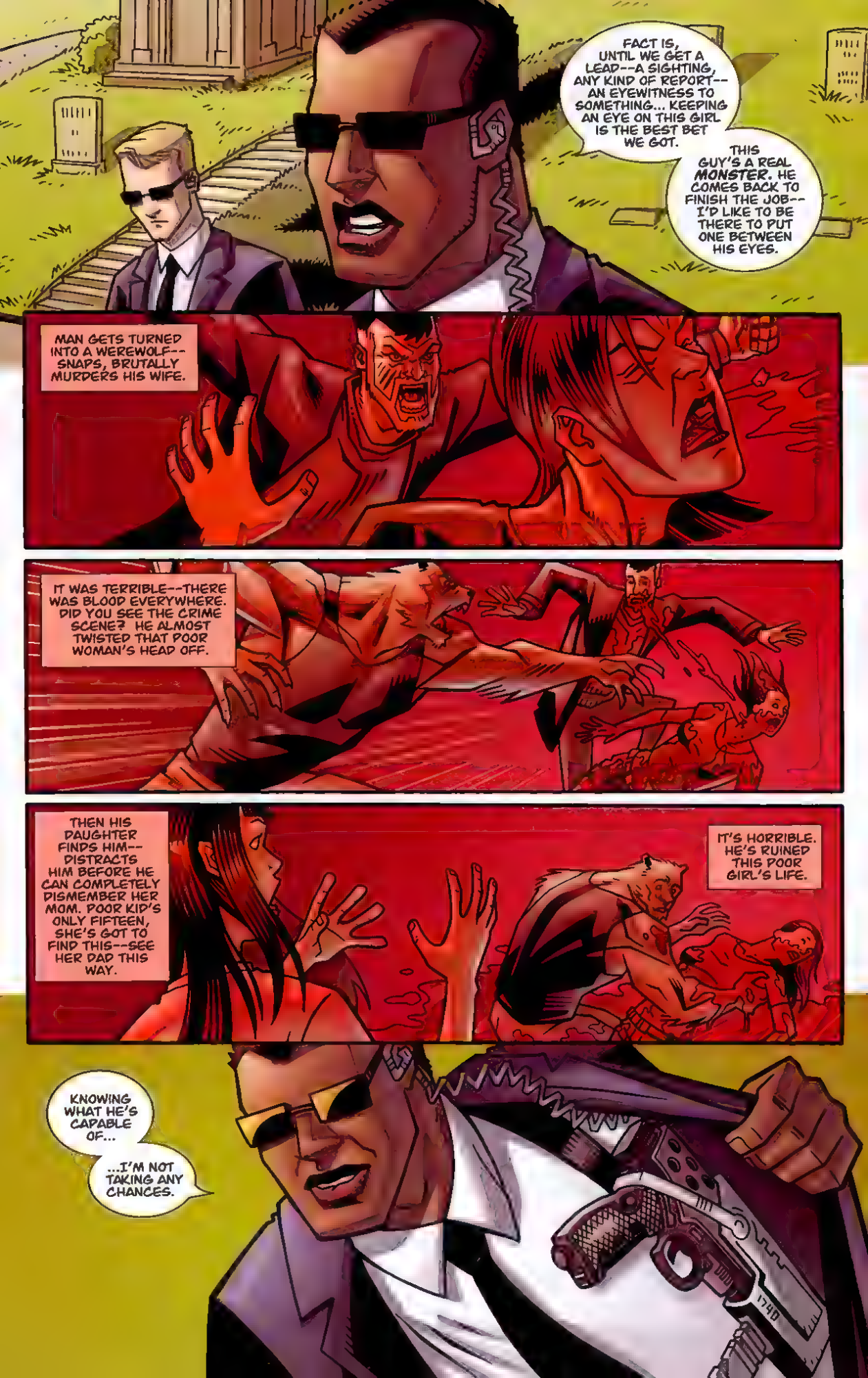
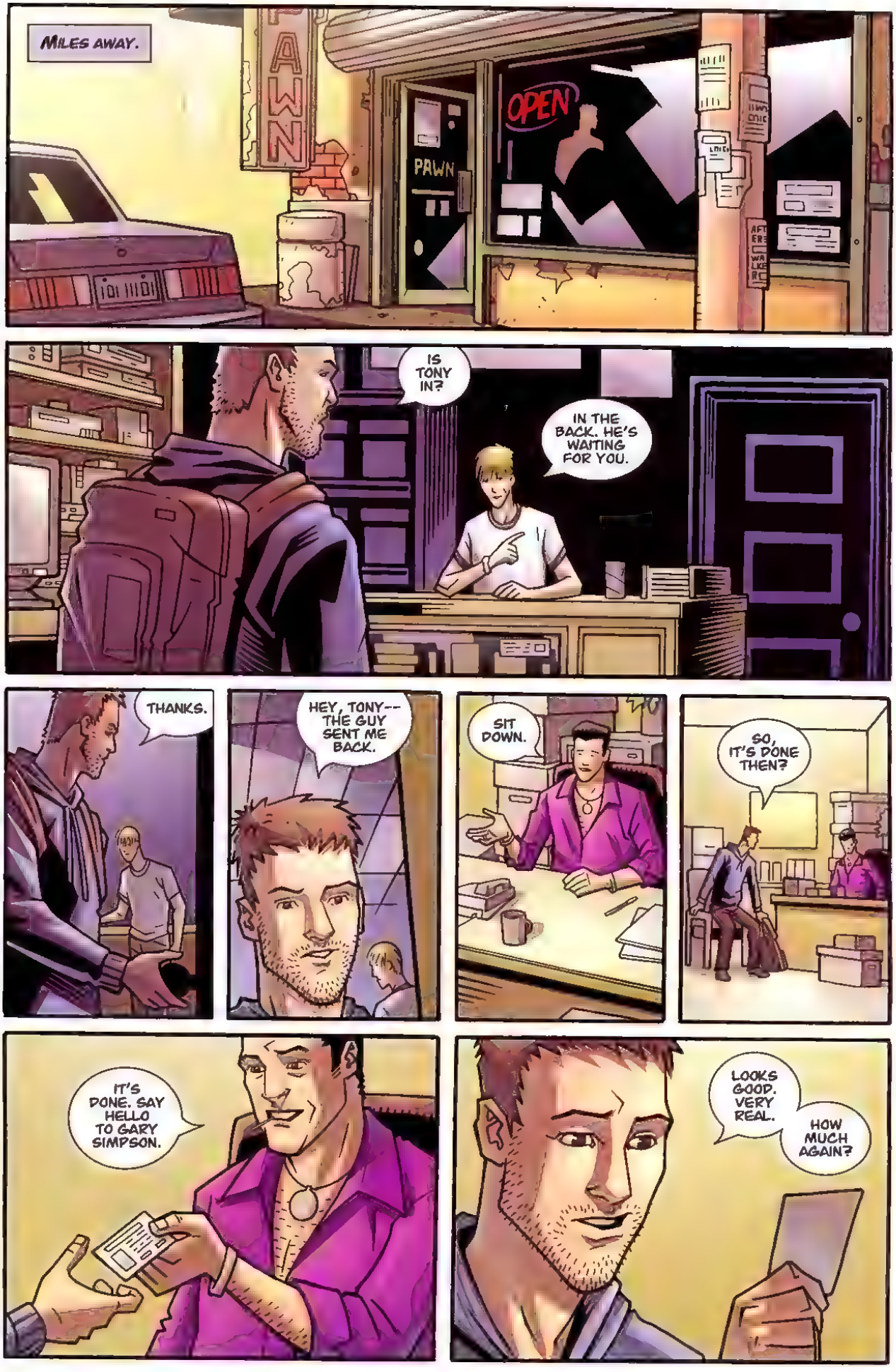
MONSTER PILE-UP
1
ALL-NEW STORIES FEATURING:
ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN
FIREBREATHER
PERHAPANAUTS
PROOF
BY THE REGULAR CREATIVE TEAMS!


WAIT A MINUTE-- THE BUTLER GOT CUSTODY?
THERE'S A WILL, THE MOTHER AND THE FATHER AGREED THE BUTLER, THIS DUNFORD CHARACTER, WOULD BE HER LEGAL GUARDIAN IN THE EVENT OF THEIR DEMISE.
BECAUSE OF THE FATHER'S LEGAL STATUS--THE ASSETS HAVE BEEN DIVIDED, THE FATHER'S IS FROZEN, THE BUTLER IS NOW IN CONTROL OF THE MOTHER'S HALF.
THEY DO THAT?
THESE PEOPLE WERE RICH-- THEY CAN DO ANYTHING.
DO YOU REALLY THINK HE'S GOING TO SHOW UP HERE?
THE FATHER? I DON'T KNOW. GARY HAMPTON HAS BEEN MISSING FOR DAYS... HIS SECRET'S OUT-- EVERYONE KNOWS HE'S WOLF-MAN... BUT NOBODY KNOWS WHERE HE IS.
THIS IS AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO LOOK.


FACT IS, UNTIL WE GET A LEAD--A SIGHTING, ANY KIND OF REPORT--AN EYEWITNESS TO SOMETHING... KEEPING AN EYE ON THIS GIRL IS THE BEST BET WE GOT.
THIS GUY'S A REAL MONSTER. HE COMES BACK TO FINISH THE JOB--I'D LIKE TO BE THERE TO PUT ONE BETWEEN HIS EYES.
MAN GETS TURNED INTO A WEREWOLF--SNAPS, BRUTALLY MURDERS HIS WIFE.
IT WAS TERRIBLE--THERE WAS BLOOD EVERYWHERE. DID YOU SEE THE CRIME SCENE? HE ALMOST TWISTED THAT POOR WOMAN'S HEAD OFF.
THEN HIS DAUGHTER FINDS HIM--DISTRACTS HIM BEFORE HE CAN COMPLETELY DISMEMBER HER MOM. POOR KID'S ONLY FIFTEEN, SHE'S GOT TO FIND THIS--SEE HER DAD THIS WAY.
IT'S HORRIBLE. HE'S RUINED THIS POOR GIRL'S LIFE.
KNOWING WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF...
...I'M NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES.


MILES AWAY.
PAWN
OPEN
PAWN
IS TONY IN?
IN THE BACK. HE'S WAITING FOR YOU.
THANKS.
HEY, TONY-- THE GUY SENT ME BACK.
SIT DOWN.
SO, IT'S DONE THEN?
IT'S DONE. SAY HELLO TO GARY SIMPSON.
LOOKS GOOD. VERY REAL.
HOW MUCH AGAIN?

YOU REALLY THINK I DIDN'T KNOW WHO YOU WERE?
IT'S MY BUSINESS TO KNOW THINGS... GARY HAMPTON, WOLF-MAN... MISTER MILLIONAIRE.
THE PRICE IS A HELL OF A LOT MORE THAN I ORIGINALLY QUOTED YOU, YOU MURDERING SON OF A BITCH.
I DIDN'T KILL ANYONE. THE ONLY REASON I HAVEN'T TURNED MYSELF IN IS BECAUSE I KNOW NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE MY STORY.
PLEASE, JUST-- HEAR ME OUT.
DO WE LOOK LIKE WE CARE?
YOU'RE LAMMING IT, SO YOU'VE EITHER GOT A WAD OF CASH IN THAT BAG--OR YOU'VE GOT A KEY TO A BOX THAT HAS A WAD OF CASH IN IT--OR BOTH. I WANT IT ALL.
NOW.
UNLESS I'VE GOT MY INFORMATION WRONG, AS LONG AS THAT SUN IS UP OUT THERE--WE GOT NO CHANCE OF YOU TURNING INTO A WEREWOLF AND KILLING US--
SO WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE, SUPERHERO?
YOU READY TO DIE?
TO BE CONTINUED IN THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN #8!

image
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8
$2.99
WOLF-MAN
ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD
FCO PLASCENCIA

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN

ROBERT KIRKMAN
writer

JASON HOWARD
penciler, inker

RUS WOOTON
letterer

JASON HOWARD & FCO PLASCENCIA
colorists

created by ROBERT KIRKMAN & JASON HOWARD

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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN #9. September 2008. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 1942 University Avenue, Suite 305, Berkeley, California 94704.

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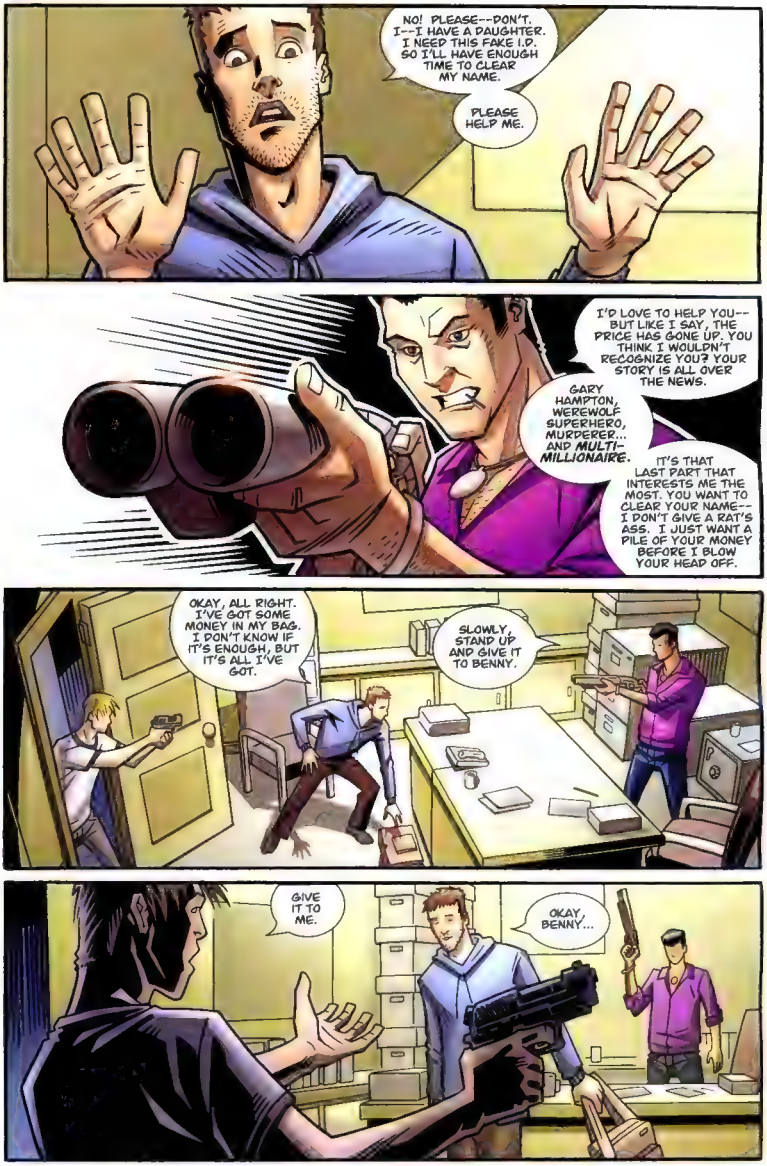
NO! PLEASE--DON'T. I--I HAVE A DAUGHTER. I NEED THIS FAKE I.D. SO I'LL HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO CLEAR MY NAME.
PLEASE HELP ME.
I'D LOVE TO HELP YOU-- BUT LIKE I SAY, THE PRICE HAS GONE UP. YOU THINK I WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU? YOUR STORY IS ALL OVER THE NEWS.
GARY HAMPTON, WEREWOLF SUPERHERO, MURDERER... AND MULTI-MILLIONAIRE.
IT'S THAT LAST PART THAT INTERESTS ME THE MOST. YOU WANT TO CLEAR YOUR NAME-- I DON'T GIVE A RAT'S ASS. I JUST WANT A PILE OF YOUR MONEY BEFORE I BLOW YOUR HEAD OFF.
OKAY, ALL RIGHT. I'VE GOT SOME MONEY IN MY BAG. I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S ENOUGH, BUT IT'S ALL I'VE GOT.
SLOWLY, STAND UP AND GIVE IT TO BENNY.
GIVE IT TO ME.
OKAY, BENNY...

...TAKE IT!
KRAKATAK!
PRRRR!
AGH.
YOU MOTHERFU--
KA-BLAM!
SHUFF!
SHUFF!
SHUFF!
PAWN

UNGH!
CRAZY BASTARD'S AS GOOD AS DEAD ANYWAY...
80
WEST

WRAMM!
FWUP!
FWUMP!

THUNK!

THE HAMPTON ESTATE.
WILL YOU BE REQUIRING ANYTHING ELSE BEFORE I RETIRE FOR THE EVENING, CHLOE, DEAR?
NO. NOTHING.
JUST GO AWAY.
YOUR MOTHER'S SERVICE TODAY WAS LOVELY.
SHE WOULD HAVE APPROVED.
WHATEVER.
JUST GO TO BED ALREADY. PLEASE.

VERY WELL, CHLOE.
GOOD EVENING, THEN.

WESTEDGE
OUTLET CENTER
I JUST WANTED TO BACKTRACK A LITTLE--GET A BETTER SENSE OF THINGS.
I WANT TO MAKE SURE THERE ISN'T SOMETHING WE MISSED.
HOLD ON--IT'S HQ.
BREET! BREET!
WHAT IS IT?
THERE WAS A SIGHTING--LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO, ON THE INTERSTATE.
LET'S MOVE!
HE DIDN'T SHOW UP TO THE FUNERAL--WHAT MAKES YOU THINK HE'D COME TO THIS PLACE?
WHY ARE WE HERE?!

MILES AWAY.
THEY SAW HIM LEAP ONTO THE TRUCK, RIGHT HERE?
YEAH, GOING WEST--BUT THEY DIDN'T GET THE TRUCK'S PLATE NUMBER--THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THEY WERE SEEING AT FIRST.
HE'S ON THE MOVE... HEADED WEST.
YES-- IT APPEARS THAT WAY...
BUT WHERE THE HELL IS HE GOING?

THIS IS AS FAR AS I CAN GO, BUDDY.
IT'S ENOUGH-- THANKS.
THANKS AGAIN.
GETTING AN EARLY START, HUH?

YEP. HE WAS HERE. FEW DAYS AGO.
HE DONE SOMETHING BAD?
ARE YOU OKAY, MISTER?
HALEY, HONEY--COME HERE.
WHAT DID I TELL YOU ABOUT STRANGERS?
HE'S HURT, DADDY.
NO--I'M FINE.
REALLY.
BILL? WHO WAS THAT?
IT WAS--OH, GOD--JUST GO GET YOUR CELL PHONE, HONEY.

WAIT--THIS IS TOO SIMPLE THIS--
THE GAS STATION--THE REST STOP HE WAS JUST SPOTTED AT..IT'S ALL LEADING WEST--NORTHWEST.
WHAT?
SO?
I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE HE'S GOING.
THEN WHAT ARE YOU WAITING ON--LET'S GO!
SORRY, OLD FRIEND--BUT I'VE GOT TO HANDLE THIS ONE MYSELF.

WILLOW CREEK CAMPING GROUND.
WILLOW CREEK, MONTANA.
IT'S--IT'S NOT THAT BAD.
S'FUNNY.
IT FEELS LIKE IT'S PRETTY BAD.

HEY, FREAK! YOU STARING AT MY KID?!
DON'T RUN AWAY FROM ME--GET BACK HERE!

HGGHN.
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

YOU SEARCH FOR ME BUT IT IS I WHO HAVE FOUND YOU.
I CAUGHT YOUR SCENT THE MOMENT YOU SET FOOT IN MY FOREST.
YOU WERE CHOSEN.
CHOSEN TO CARRY MY LEGACY.
CHOSEN TO SPREAD MY INFLUENCE.
YOU WERE NEVER MEANT TO SHARE MY PRESENCE.

WHY DID YOU SEEK ME OUT?
I WANT YOU TO TEACH ME HOW TO KILL A VAMPIRE.

image
THE ASTOUNDING
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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN #8. October 2008. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 1942 University Avenue, Suite 305, Berkeley, California 94704.

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DAMIEN DARKBLOOD
INVESTIGATIONS
HURM.
IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY TO FIND THIS ONE--BUT YOU CAME TO THE RIGHT PLACE--IF ANYONE CAN FIND HIM, IT'S ME.
THAT'S WHAT I WAS TOLD.
THANK YOU FOR AGREEING TO TAKE ON MY CASE.
THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE OKAY.
THE LOVE HUT
2666
IF YOU NEED TO MEET WITH THIS MAN AGAIN, MAY I SUGGEST YOU HAVE HIM COME TO THE ESTATE?
IT ISN'T REALLY ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS, DUNFORD.
JUST DRIVE ME HOME.
THUNK!

DEFEND YOURSELF!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
WRO-KOOM!!

I'M ASKING FOR YOUR HELP! WHY ARE YOU ATTACKING ME?!
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT YOU.
TOO MUCH TALKING!
YOU ARE MISTAKEN-- THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT YOU HAVE COME HERE FOR!
YOU'RE CRAZY! STOP THIS-- JUST STOP FOR A--
WRAMM!!

THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT!
BOOM!!!
THIS IS WHAT YOU ASKED FOR!
YOU'RE INSANE!
WRAKK!!
SWOOSH!

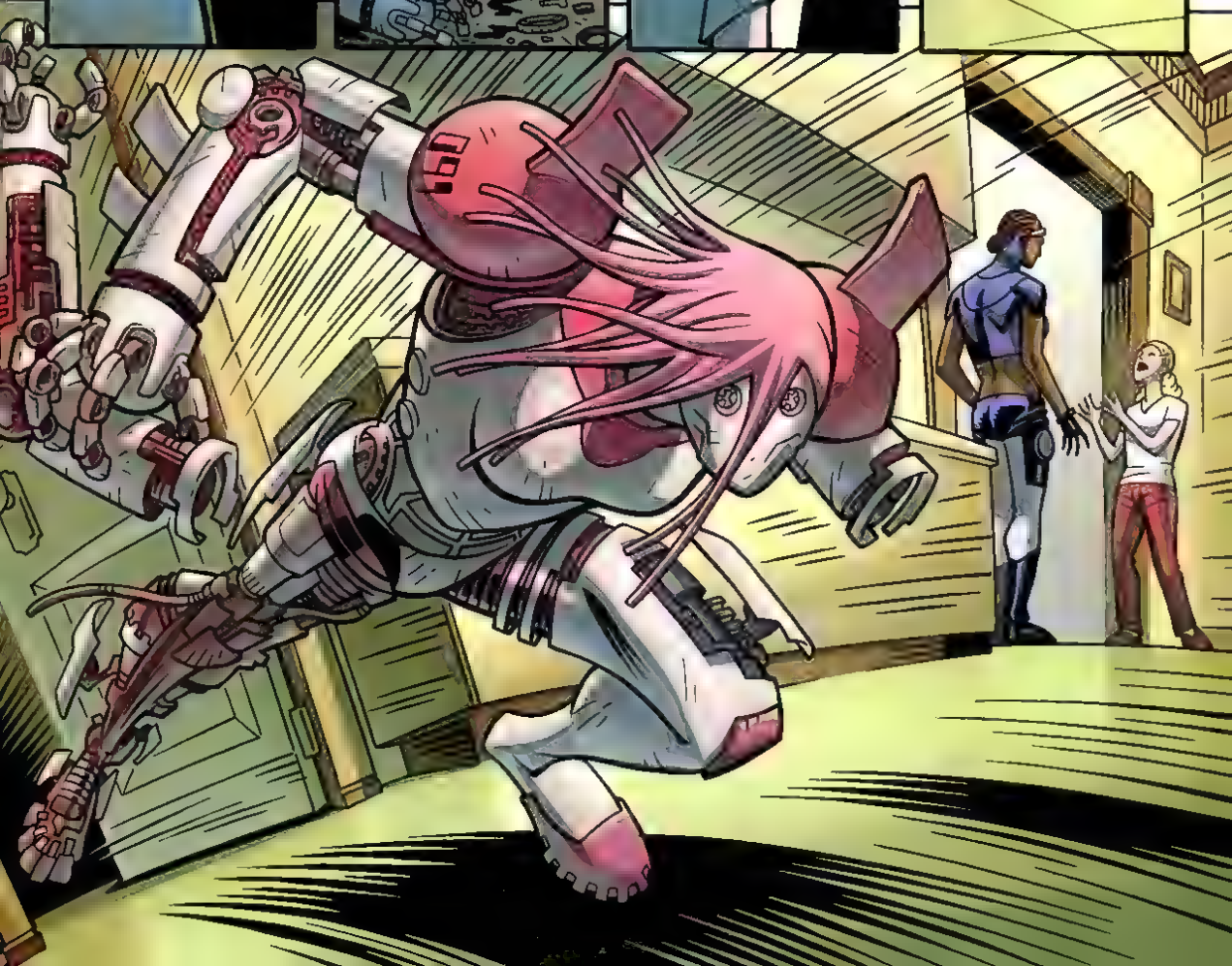
IMPRESSIVE.
IF YOU ARE TO DEFEAT A VAMPIRE YOU WILL HAVE TO BE AT THE PEAK OF YOUR ABILITIES. YOU HAVE PASSED THE FIRST TEST.
WE WILL CONTINUE THIS LATER.
FSSSH!

I CAN'T DO THIS. I'M SCARED, MOMMY.

I NEED YOU TO DO THIS, HONEY. THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU. YOU CAN DISTRACT THEM.
DON'T WORRY, I CAN SHUT YOU DOWN BEFORE THEY TOUCH YOU.

OKAY, MOMMY.

I'M HUNGRY.
WHAT?! HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE, LITTLE GIRL?!



KROOM!!
MOMMY-- PLEASE DON'T GO-- MOMMY?!
MOMMY, I'M--
WE SHOULD KEEP A CLOSER EYE ON HER IN THE FUTURE.

GARY HAMPTON! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
PTING!
SPAKK! SPAKK!
SPAKK!
SPAKK!
SPAKK!
DAMN IT!
COME ON...
COME ON...
YOU ARE ONLY MAKING THINGS WORSE-- SURRENDER NOW AND...
OH, CRAP...

WRAMM!!
RARRGH!
LEAVE HERE! I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU. I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE JUST DOING YOUR JOB--BUT I DIDN'T KILL MY WIFE.
WHUMP!

RIGHT. PULL THE OTHER LEG!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
AAARGH!
IT BURNS!!
SILVER BULLETS-- FIGURED IF SILVER DIDN'T HURT YOU, THEY WERE STILL BULLETS.
GOOD TO KNOW YOU'VE GOT A WEAKNESS!
BLAM! BLAM!
HOW IS IT YOU'RE SO FAST?!
TRADE SECRET.
BLAM!
CAN'T DODGE ME--
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
--FOREVER!

I--
I--
OH, GOD...
...
I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T KNOW... YOU WERE SO FAST... I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPER-POWERED.
I DIDN'T THINK I'D KILL YOU--I JUST WANTED--YOU'D SHOT ME AND I JUST WANTED YOU TO STOP-- I DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL YOU.
I'M SORRY...
I'M SO SORRY.

BLAM!
CRY ME A RIVER.
DID YOU REALLY THINK THEY'D SEND A NORMAL AGENT AFTER YOU?
SNRGG.
THEY CALLED ME AGENT INVINCIBLE UNTIL THAT KID CAME ALONG. YOU CAN JUST CALL ME HUNTER...
IN OUR CASE--THAT NAME SEEMS TO APPLY.

TELL ME, IS THAT WHAT IT WAS LIKE WHEN YOU KILLED YOUR WIFE?
YOU TELL HER YOU WERE SORRY?
I DIDN'T KILL HER!
THEN TURN YOURSELF IN! IF YOU'RE SO INNOCENT, WHY DID YOU RUN?!
NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE ME, I HAVE TO--
KRAK!
SORRY, DID YOU THINK I ACTUALLY CARED WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY? I'M TAKING YOU IN REGARDLESS.
HOW MANY SHOTS TO THE SKULL DO YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE?
LAST CHANCE TO SURRENDER.

SQLUGGK!
THIS WILL KEEP HIM BUSY.
I'M HURT-- BAD. SILVER BULLETS... I DIDN'T KNOW.
COME.

CLINK.
MISS CHLOE HAMPTON.
HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?! WE'VE GOT SECURITY-- WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE INTRUSION. I ASSUMED YOU'D WANT TO KNOW RIGHT AWAY.
I'VE FOUND HIM.

YEEAAAGGGHH!!
GGRNNNGG!
WHY DOES THIS HURT SO MUCH? NOTHING HAS HURT THIS MUCH...
CERTAIN METALS ARE BAD FOR OUR KIND.
YOU MEAN-- NOT JUST SILVER?
NOT ALL OF OUR WEAKNESSES ARE SO PUBLIC. SILVER IS THE WORST. HAD YOU BECOME MAN AGAIN WITH THE SILVER STILL IMBEDDED, YOUR WOUNDS WOULD HAVE REMAINED.
THE HEALING NATURE OF THE TRANSFORMATION WOULD HAVE BEEN BLOCKED.

SPEAKING OF WHICH...
NO!
YOU WILL REMAIN THE BEAST--FOR A TIME MORE.
I REALLY NEED TO TURN BACK--I'VE LOST A LOT OF BLOOD, I'M GETTING LIGHT-HEADED.
NO. YOU RELY ON THE TRANSFORMATION TOO MUCH. YOU HAVE HEALING ABILITIES IN YOUR WOLF FORM THAT YOU'VE NEGLECTED.
YOU NEED TO DEVELOP THEM...
HOW WILL I DO THAT?
THAT IS THE NEXT PART OF YOUR TRAINING.

SLASH

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FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN

ROBERT KIRKMAN
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JASON HOWARD
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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN #10. December 2008. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 1942 University Avenue, Suite 305, Berkeley, California 94704.

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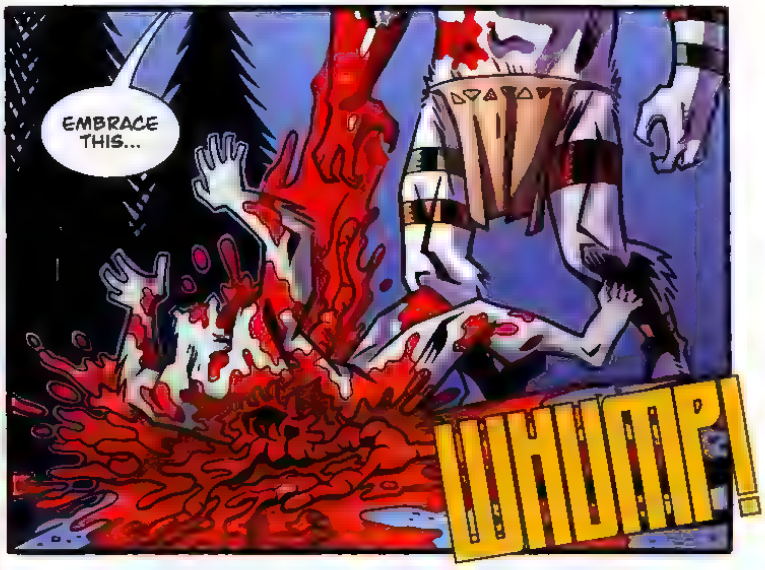
YES... FEEL YOUR LIFE DRAINING AWAY--FEEL THE BLOOD LEAVING YOUR BODY--TAKING YOUR STRENGTH WITH IT.


EMBRACE THIS...
WHUMP!

DYING... CAN'T... I'M GOING TO... I'VE GOT TO CHANGE BACK...

NO!
YOU STAY AS YOU ARE! YOU RELY ON THE TRANSFORMATION TOO MUCH--IT'S A CRUTCH, A WEAKNESS--SOMETHING THAT CAN BE EXPLOITED.

YOU WISH FOR ME TO TRAIN YOU TO FIGHT A VAMPIRE--ONE WITH ANY KNOWLEDGE WILL BE ABLE TO TURN YOUR STRENGTHS INTO WEAKNESSES.
YOU HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO OVERCOME THAT. HEALING FROM A WOUND LIKE YOU'VE JUST SUSTAINED WILL DRAIN YOU--WHEN YOU REVERT TO HUMAN FORM YOU WILL LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.
THAT IS WHEN YOUR OPPONENT WOULD STRIKE. YOU MUST BE ABLE TO PREPARE FOR THAT--USE THIS TIME TO ESCAPE TO SAFETY BEFORE YOU TURN--ALLOW YOUR HEALING ABILITIES TO KEEP YOU ALIVE LONG ENOUGH TO FLEE.

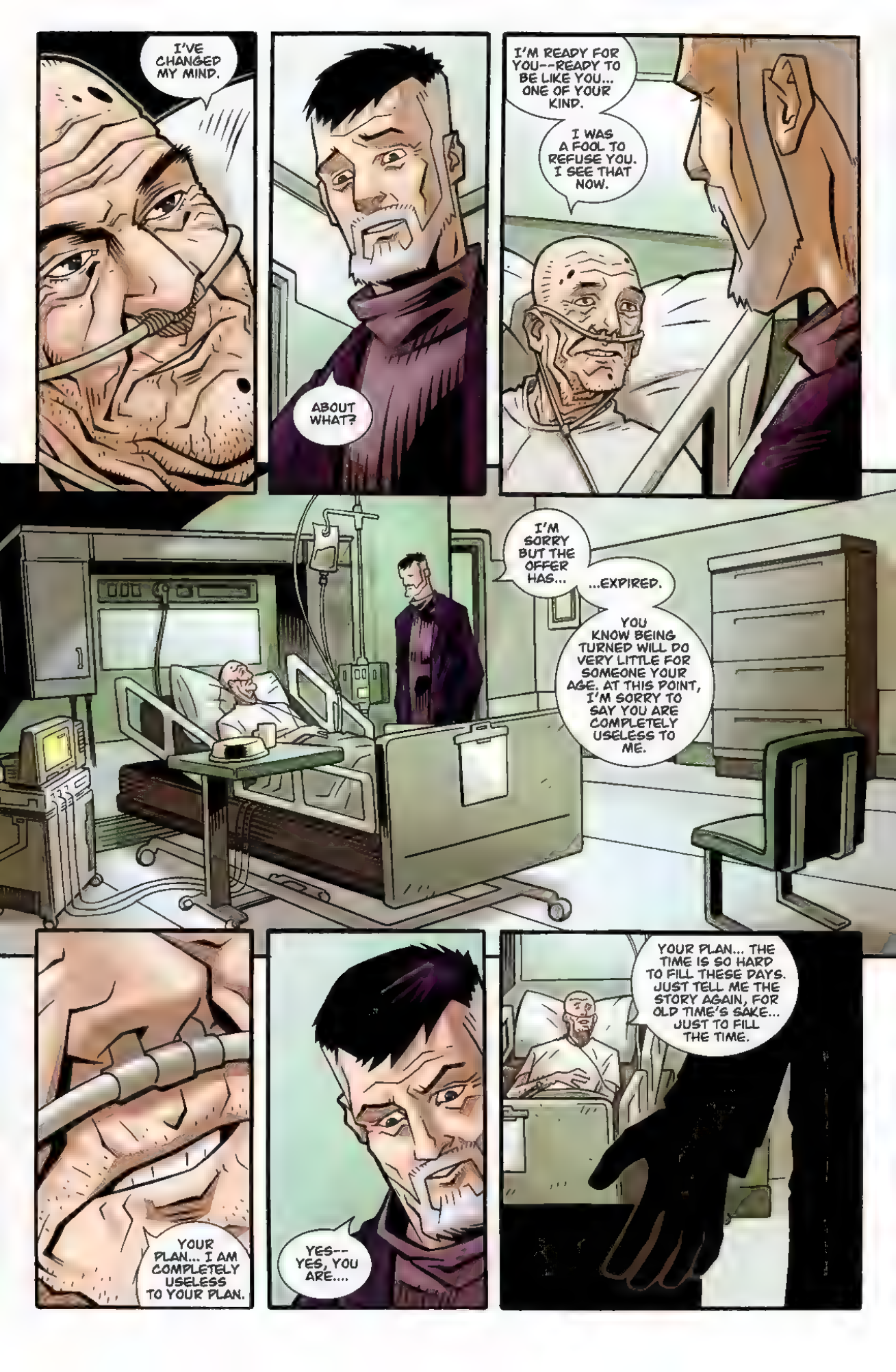
THAT'S IT. SLOW YOUR HEART RATE, SLOW YOUR BLOOD LOSS-- CONTROL IT, CALM YOURSELF.
YOU'RE DOING WELL FOR YOUR FIRST TIME.
IT'S ALL IN THE BREATHING-- BREATHE IN SLOW, CONTROLLED BREATHS.
DO NOT ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE SCARED-- THAT IS NOT A LUXURY YOU CAN AFFORD RIGHT NOW.
=HUFF=
...
=HUFF=
YES, LIKE THAT. SLOW, CONTROLLED BREATHS.
=HUFF=
=HUFF=
=HUFF=

NOW QUICKLY, BEFORE YOU PASS-- CHANGE TO HUMAN FORM!
HUURK.
THERE...
...I DID...
I'VE GOT YOU.
COME-- I KNOW OF A SAFE PLACE WHERE YOU CAN RECOVER...

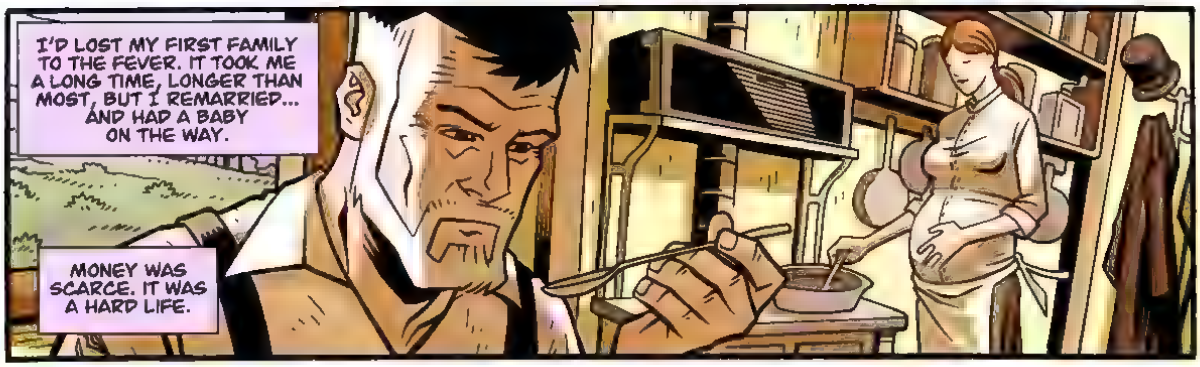
ELSEWHERE.
HUNTER! OH MY GOD!
WHAT ARE--WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I CAME TO HELP YOU, JERK. NOW COME HERE-- HELP ME GET YOU ON MY SHOULDERS.
NO--WHY ARE YOU HERE? YOU KNOW YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR ELEMENT. YOU DON'T HAVE SUPERPOWERS.
SHUT UP AND HELP ME GET OVER TO WHERE MY LEGS ARE.
THIS WAY.
OH, THAT FAMILIAR SONG AGAIN? IF YOU THINK I'M SO USELESS-- WHY ARE WE PARTNERS?
I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SURVIVE GETTING RIPPED IN HALF-- BUT I DO HAVE THE SUPERPOWER OF KEEPING THAT FROM HAPPENING IN THE FIRST PLACE.

LATER.
KROOM
WELL?
NO, NOTHING. I CAN'T FIND ANY SIGN OF THEM.
YOU?
NOTHING... BOTH OF US. SAME AS YOU.
I'M STARVING. LET'S HOPE SERGEANT SUPERIOR FARED BETTER.
SORRY, BUT NO. NOTHING FOR ME EITHER. IT'S LIKE THEY KNOW WE'RE HUNTING THEM-- THEY'RE COVERING THEIR TRACKS.
HAS ANYONE HEARD FROM ZECHARIAH?
NO... HE'S DISAPPEARED FOR THE NIGHT AGAIN. WE DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS.

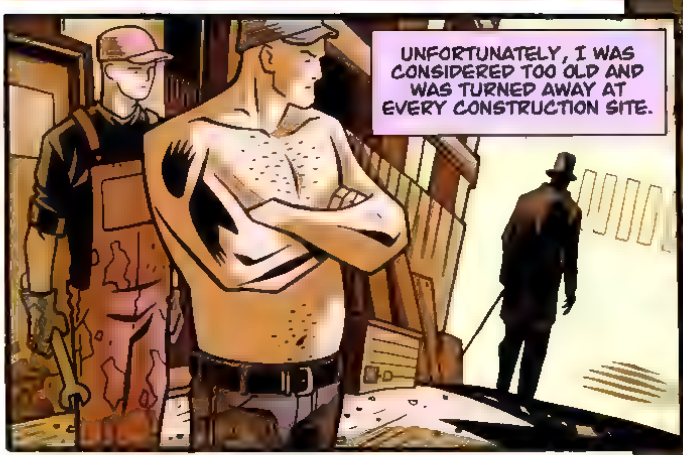
ACROSS TOWN.
St. Mercy
I MADE A MISTAKE.
I CAN SEE THAT.


I'VE CHANGED MY MIND.
ABOUT WHAT?
I'M READY FOR YOU--READY TO BE LIKE YOU... ONE OF YOUR KIND.
I WAS A FOOL TO REFUSE YOU. I SEE THAT NOW.
I'M SORRY BUT THE OFFER HAS...
...EXPIRED.
YOU KNOW BEING TURNED WILL DO VERY LITTLE FOR SOMEONE YOUR AGE. AT THIS POINT, I'M SORRY TO SAY YOU ARE COMPLETELY USELESS TO ME.
YOUR PLAN... I AM COMPLETELY USELESS TO YOUR PLAN.
YES-- YES, YOU ARE....
YOUR PLAN... THE TIME IS SO HARD TO FILL THESE DAYS. JUST TELL ME THE STORY AGAIN, FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE... JUST TO FILL THE TIME.

VERY WELL... I OWE YOU THAT MUCH, AT LEAST.
IT WAS THE SUMMER OF 1916...


I'D LOST MY FIRST FAMILY TO THE FEVER. IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME, LONGER THAN MOST, BUT I REMARRIED... AND HAD A BABY ON THE WAY.
MONEY WAS SCARCE. IT WAS A HARD LIFE.

I WENT INTO THE CITY LOOKING FOR WORK. THERE WAS A LOT OF WORK BEING DONE, MOSTLY IN CONSTRUCTION.

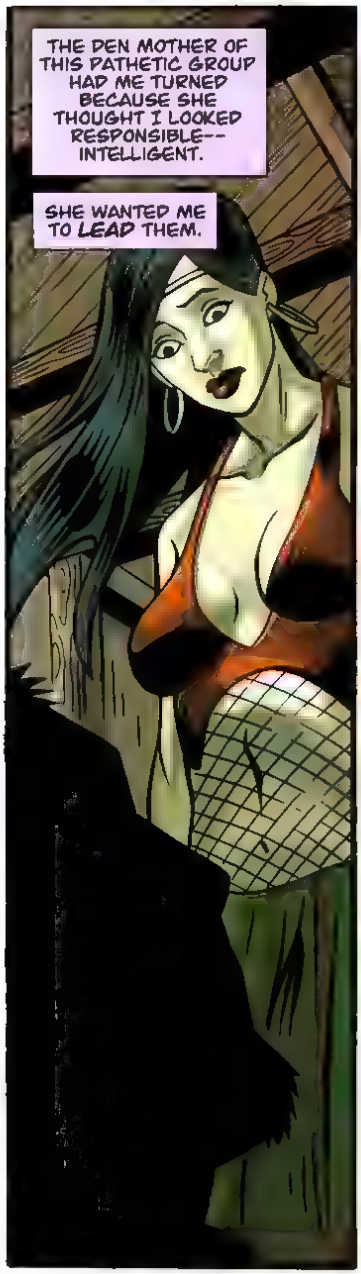

UNFORTUNATELY, I WAS CONSIDERED TOO OLD AND WAS TURNED AWAY AT EVERY CONSTRUCTION SITE.

UNBEKNOWNST TO ME, I WAS VERY MUCH IN DEMAND WITH ANOTHER GROUP WHOSE EXISTENCE I WASN'T EVEN AWARE OF.

I'D READ DRACULA, I KNEW WHAT A VAMPIRE WAS--AND LEARNING THAT THEY WERE REAL HAD SENT MY MIND RACING.
IF EVERYTHING I KNEW WAS TRUE--THEY'D PROBABLY BEEN AROUND AS LONG AS HUMANS--AND THEY'D HAVE BEEN LIVING IN SECRET ALL THIS TIME.
I THOUGHT OF HOW MUCH INFLUENCE THEY MUST HAVE--WITH THEIR POWERS OVER THE HUMAN MIND--HOW THEY MUST HAVE STEERED THE COURSE OF CIVILIZATION.
I PICTURED A SECRET ARMY, LEGIONS OF VAMPIRE SOLDIERS READY TO STRIKE WHENEVER THE ORDER WAS GIVEN.
I REJOICED TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE FOLD OF SUCH AN ESTEEMED SOCIETY--ONE WITH SUCH POWER--THAT THE REST OF THE WORLD WAS LEFT UNAWARE OF.

THEY'D BEEN WATCHING ME FOR A DAY. I WAS AN OUTSIDER, I WAS SOMEONE NOBODY IN THE CITY WOULD MISS...
I WAS LUCKY.
AT LEAST--THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT IN THE BEGINNING.
AT FIRST I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON. I SAW AN ARGUMENT OVER ME--SOMETHING SAID ABOUT TURNING ME.
AND THEN NOTHING.
BLACKNESS.
I AWOKE TO A CHANGED WORLD... I'D HEARD STORIES, THOUGH--I KNEW WHAT I WAS... AND I WAS EXCITED.

OF COURSE... I WAS WRONG.
I WOULD EVENTUALLY LEARN JUST HOW DISORGANIZED AND PATHETIC VAMPIRES REALLY WERE. THEY WERE JUNKIES, ADDICTS... CONTROLLED BY THEIR HUNGER, A SLAVE TO IT.
THEY WERE TOO WORRIED ABOUT WHERE THEY COULD GET THEIR NEXT MEAL TO EVER ORGANIZE AND ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING.

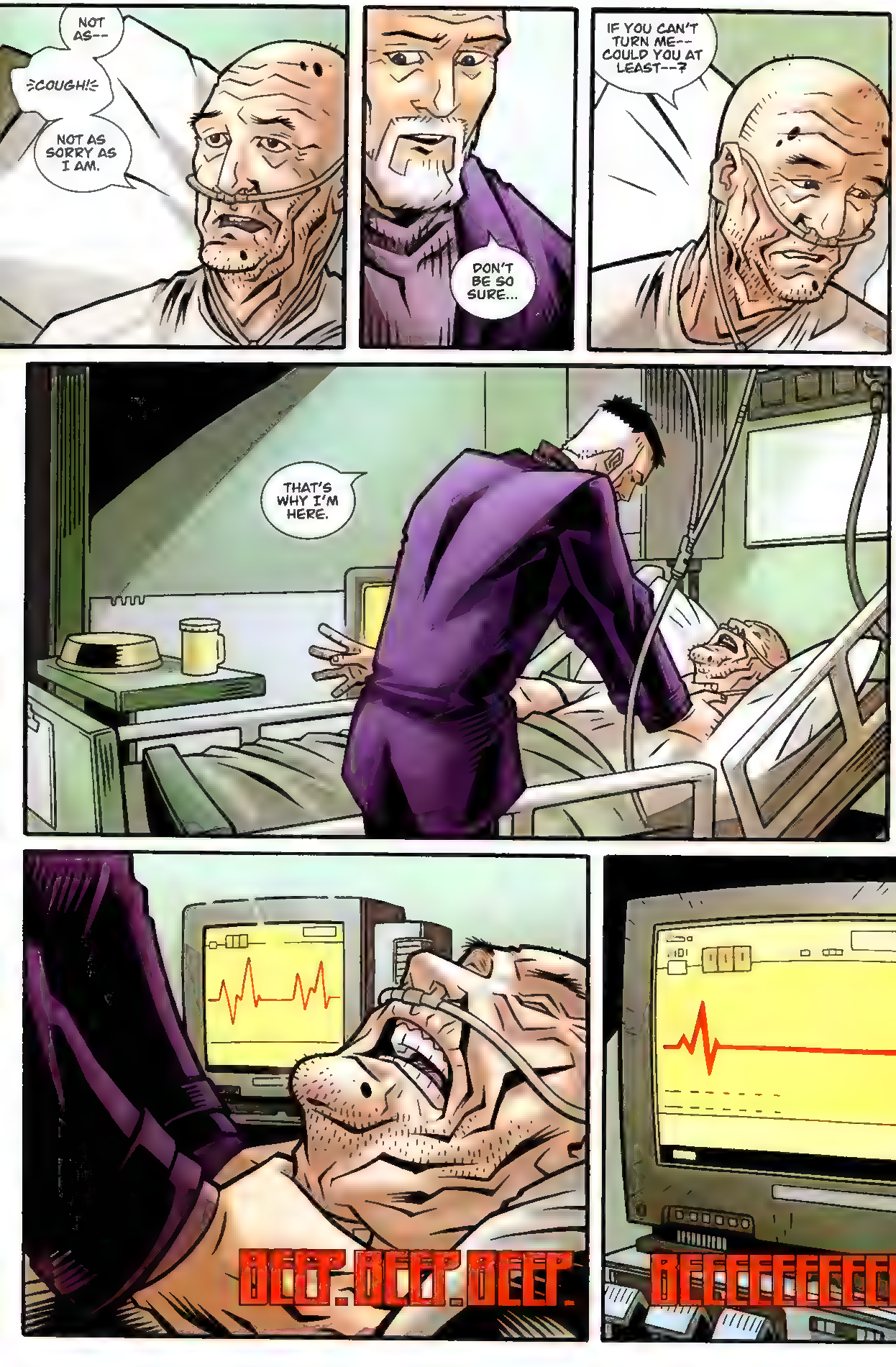

THE DEN MOTHER OF THIS PATHETIC GROUP HAD ME TURNED BECAUSE SHE THOUGHT I LOOKED RESPONSIBLE-- INTELLIGENT.
SHE WANTED ME TO LEAD THEM.

I HAD OTHER PLANS.
IT WAS REMARKABLY EASY TO ESCAPE FROM THEM, DESPITE KNOWING VERY LITTLE ABOUT MY NEW POWERS.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO GO... SO I WENT HOME.
IT WOULD BE A VERY LONG TIME BEFORE I TOLD HER ABOUT MY SECRET. I WAS ABLE TO HIDE THE CHANGES I WAS GOING THROUGH FROM HER.
I CAME BACK WITH NEWS OF A JOB, I TOLD HER WE NEEDED TO LIVE IN THE CITY. IT WASN'T A JOB WE WERE MOVING FOR.
I NEEDED BLOOD.

AND I HAD THE WAY TO GET IT.
WHO BETTER TO DRAIN THAN THE TRULY WICKED? I HAVE TO DO IT TO SURVIVE, WHY NOT STRIKE OUT AGAINST THOSE WHO DESERVE IT?
THEIVES, RAPISTS, MURDERERS... I WAS THE CITY'S GUARDIAN ANGEL.
ALTHOUGH I NEVER CONSIDERED MYSELF TO BE SO... I MUST HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE FIRST SUPERHEROES.
I WAS GOOD AT WHAT I DID.
IT MADE ME WONDER WHY I SEEMED LIKE THE ONLY VAMPIRE WHO COULD GET IT TOGETHER---ORGANIZE, FIND A WAY TO FEED THE HUNGER ON A REGULAR BASIS WITHOUT BECOMING A SLAVE TO IT.
I WONDERED WHY I WAS THE ONLY ONE WITH A PLAN.

MY PLAN.
I HAD HIGH HOPES FOR THE VAMPIRE NATION I WANTED TO FORCE INTO EXISTENCE--THAT WHICH I'D HOPED ALREADY EXISTED... BUT DIDN'T.
I PROTECTED THE CITY, KEPT MYSELF FED, BUT I ALSO TAUGHT MYSELF--EVERYTHING. HOW THE BLOOD AFFECTS ME, WHAT MY POWERS WERE--ALL OF THEM.
I SET OUT TO USE MY KNOWLEDGE TO UNITE THE VAMPIRE POPULATION--TO FORM AN ORGANIZED AND COHESIVE SECRET SOCIETY--ONE THAT COULD INFLUENCE AND CHANGE THE COURSE OF HUMAN HISTORY.
I WANTED TO RULE THE WORLD SO THAT I COULD MAKE IT A BETTER PLACE... BUT MOST OF ALL, I WANTED TO RULE.
THERE HAVE BEEN SOME BUMPS IN THE ROAD ALONG THE WAY--BUT FOR THE MOST PART, THE PLAN REMAINS THE SAME, AND I AM CLOSER TODAY THAN I WAS YESTERDAY.
I'M SORRY YOU CAN'T BE A PART OF IT.


NOT AS--
=COUGH!=
NOT AS SORRY AS I AM.
DON'T BE SO SURE...
IF YOU CAN'T TURN ME-- COULD YOU AT LEAST--?
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.
BEEP. BEEP. BEEP.
BEEEEEEEEEEE

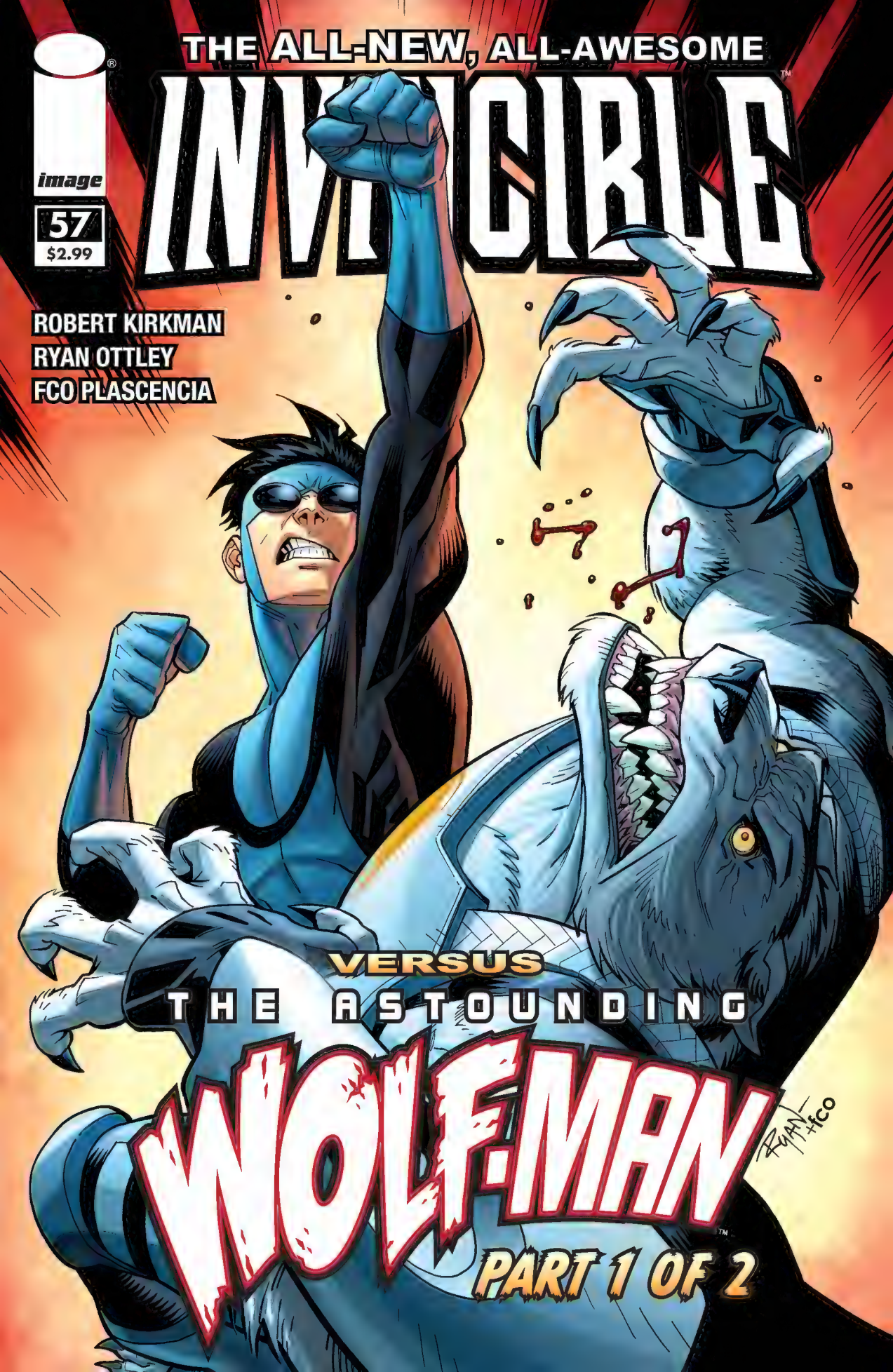
GOODBYE, SON.
I ALWAYS LOVED YOU.

HUNGH...
NO--DON'T TRY TO MOVE-- SAVE YOUR STRENGTH.
UNGH.
DO YOU... EVER TURN TO YOUR HUMAN FORM?
THAT IS SOMETHING YOU LOSE WITH TIME.
IT IS SAID WE ALL EVENTUALLY BECOME MINDLESS BEASTS, BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE ALL THE STORIES OUR KIND TELL.

THIS JUST... KEEPS GETTING BETTER.
WHAT DO I DO NOW?
YOU EAT-- AND REST. YOU'VE BEEN UNCONSCIOUS FOR MANY HOURS. IT WILL BE DAYS BEFORE YOU ARE FULLY RECOVERED.
YOU HAVE ENOUGH FOOD FOR ONE. I SUGGEST YOU SAVE YOUR STRENGTH FOR WHEN YOU RUN OUT.
WHERE...?
WHERE WILL YOU BE?
THAT IS NOT FOR YOU TO KNOW. YOU HAVE YOUR TRIALS--THEY ARE FOR YOU ALONE. IT WILL HELP ME DECIDE IF YOU ARE WORTHY TO CONTINUE MY TRAINING.
YOUR CURRENT TRIAL IS-- SURVIVE.

SOMEWHERE ELSE.
YOU'RE SURE THIS IS THE PLACE? YOU'RE SURE HE'S HERE?
YES, THAT IS THE PLACE. YES, HE IS IN THERE, I ASSURE YOU. YOU HAVE MY PERSONAL GUARANTEE.
I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING, MISS HAMPTON.
YOU'D BETTER BE RIGHT. THE MONEY HAS ALREADY BEEN TRANSFERRED INTO YOUR ACCOUNT.
BYE.
CLICK.
UH...

WHY ARE YOU HERE? IF YOUR FATHER KNEW HE--
MY FATHER HAS LOST HIS MIND, HE CAN'T CONTROL HIMSELF ANY MORE.
HE MURDERED MY MOTHER.
I WANT YOU TO HELP ME KILL HIM.


THE ALL-NEW, ALL-AWESOME
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RYAN OTTLEY
FCO PLASCENCIA
VERSUS
THE ASTOUNDING
WOLF-MAN
PART 1 OF 2
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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN CREATED BY ROBERT KIRKMAN & JASON HOWARD

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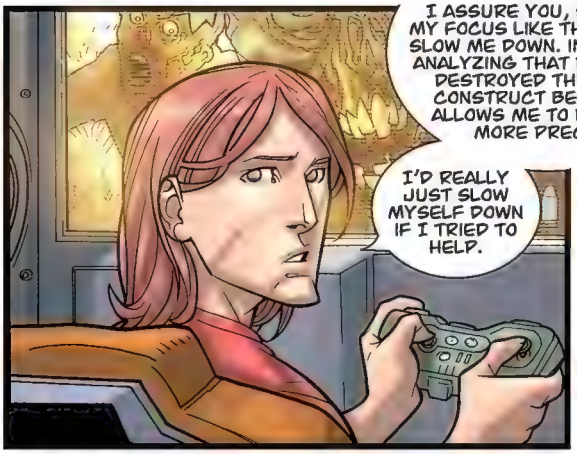
International Rights Representative: Christine Jensen (christine@gfloystudio.com)

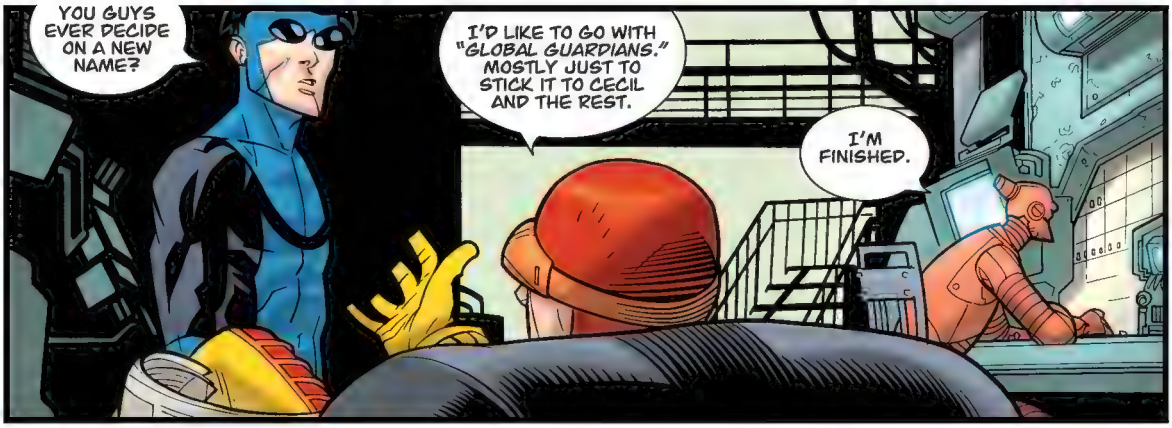
THE SECRET BASE OF THE TEAM FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE TEEN TEAM.

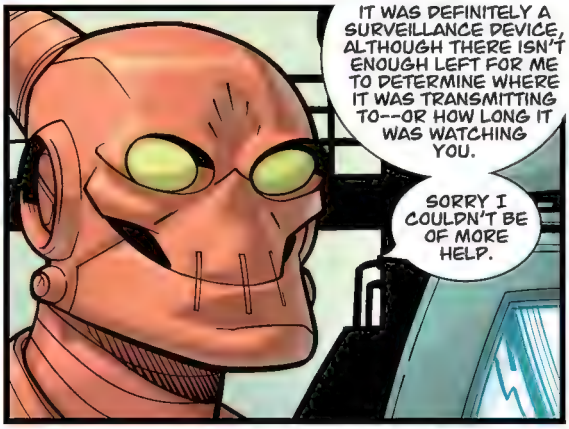
WE'VE BEEN HERE ALMOST ALL DAY. HOW MUCH LONGER IS THIS GOING TO TAKE?
YEAH, ROBOT, REALLY... WOULD IT SPEED THINGS UP IF YOU--I DON'T KNOW... HELPED... YOURSELF?


I ASSURE YOU, SPLITTING MY FOCUS LIKE THIS DOESN'T SLOW ME DOWN. IN FACT, I'M ANALYZING THAT PROBE YOU DESTROYED THROUGH A CONSTRUCT BECAUSE IT ALLOWS ME TO BE MUCH MORE PRECISE.
I'D REALLY JUST SLOW MYSELF DOWN IF I TRIED TO HELP.

OKAY, OKAY... JUST DO WHAT YOU CAN. I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU DOING THIS FOR US.
BUT I DIDN'T DESTROY IT. I TOLD YOU--IT JUST BLEW UP WHEN I TOUCHED IT.

I SHOULD BE DONE SOON-- I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN I AM.
MAN, THAT'S JUST UNSETTLING.
SORRY, FORCE OF HABIT.
CAN I JUMP IN AFTER THIS ROUND?
THINGS WORKING OUT OKAY FOR YOU GUYS SINCE YOU SPLIT AWAY?
HUH?
OH, YEAH--THINGS ARE GOING WELL. WE'RE FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT. WE'VE PUT A FEW SUPER-BADS AWAY.
TOOK DOWN THE ELEPHANT LAST NIGHT-- GUY'S A LOT TOUGHER THAN HE LOOKS. YOU REMEMBER HIM?
THE ELEPHANT? BARELY--IT GETS HARD TO KEEP TRACK AFTER A WHILE.
WELL, HE REMEMBERS *YOU*. APPARENTLY HE WAS HUNTING YOU DOWN OR SOMETHING--GUY TOTALLY HATES YOUR GUTS. I'M SURE YOU'VE RACKED UP A FEW GUYS WHO HATE YOU BY NOW.
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY WATCH OUT.


YOU GUYS EVER DECIDE ON A NEW NAME?
I'D LIKE TO GO WITH "GLOBAL GUARDIANS." MOSTLY JUST TO STICK IT TO CECIL AND THE REST.
I'M FINISHED.


IT WAS DEFINITELY A SURVEILLANCE DEVICE, ALTHOUGH THERE ISN'T ENOUGH LEFT FOR ME TO DETERMINE WHERE IT WAS TRANSMITTING TO--OR HOW LONG IT WAS WATCHING YOU.
SORRY I COULDN'T BE OF MORE HELP.

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE ME MORE EVIDENCE--BUT I'M ALREADY ALMOST CERTAIN I KNOW WHO'S BEEN WATCHING ME.
OLIVER--STAY HERE. I'LL BE BACK SHORTLY.

YOU GUYS NEED ANOTHER TEAM MEMBER?
I'M TOTALLY AWESOME.

DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON, THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY, LED BY CECIL STEDMAN.
UNITED STATES PENTAGON
Parking in Rear
OH--I MISSED YOU GUYS, TOO!
KRAKOOM!!
WHAT?!
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO EXCUSE ME FOR A MINUTE, AGENT HUNTER.
STOP!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHY I'M HERE, CECIL!
I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
YOU'VE BEEN SPYING ON MY FAMILY!
I HAVE NOT.
I FOUND YOUR ORB. IT WAS RECORDING-- TRANSMITTING SOMEWHERE.
I KNOW YOU WERE WATCHING ME!
YOU KNOW SOMEONE WAS WATCHING YOU. YOU DON'T KNOW IT WAS ME. DON'T LET YOUR TEMPER GET THE BEST OF YOU.
AGAIN.
WHAT ABOUT MY PROBLEM, CECIL? THE SUBJECT COULD BE ON THE MOVE-- HE COULD BE ANYWHERE.
MARK... I'M GOING TO ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR.

SOMEWHERE ELSE.
YOU SURVIVED-- GOOD. THAT'S ANOTHER OF MY TESTS YOU'VE SURVIVED. IMPRESSIVE.
IT WASN'T EASY... BUT I MADE IT. WHAT'S NEXT? I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE WHAT YOU HAVE PLANNED FOR ME NOW.
TONIGHT YOUR TEST WILL NOT COME FROM ME... THERE ARE OTHERS WHO CONTROL YOUR FATE THIS EVENING.
OTHERS? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I CAN SENSE IT. THERE ARE MANY DANGERS IN THE FOREST TONIGHT.
RUUUMMBLE!!

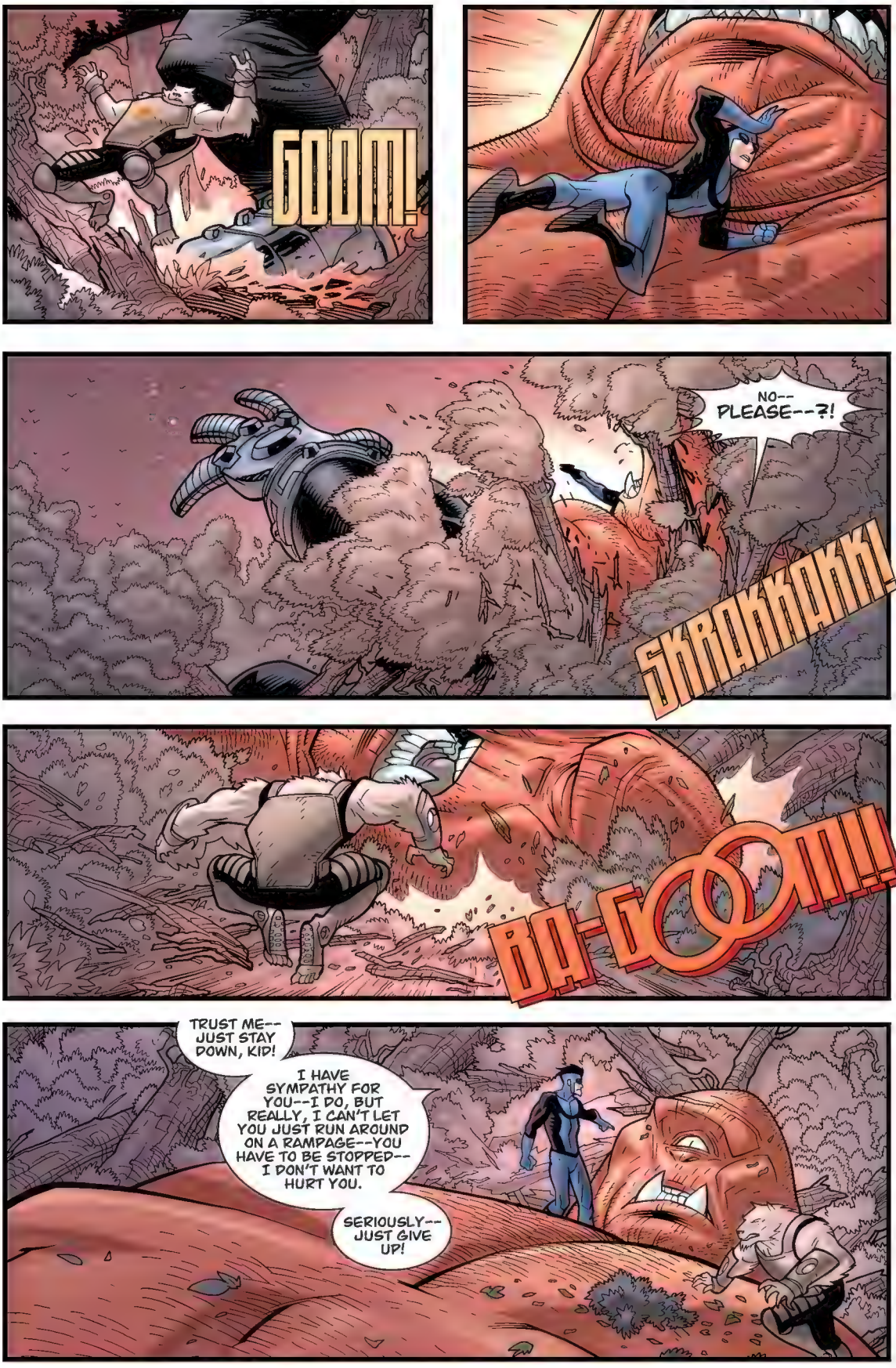
THAT IS BUT THE FIRST TRIAL YOU WILL FACE. MANY INNOCENTS ARE IN DANGER.
YOU WILL BE THEIR DEFENDER.
YOU GOING TO GIVE ME ANY HINT AS TO WHAT I'M UP AGAINST-- AND HOW YOU KNOW ALL THIS?
NO HINTS. MY SENSES ARE HONED TO PERFECTION-- IF YOU LIVE LONG ENOUGH YOU MAY YET EXPERIENCE IT.
WHY DO YOU CHOOSE TO WEAR THAT GARB? DO YOU NOT WISH TO REMAIN HIDDEN?
THOSE HUNTING ME KNOW I'M HERE. NOT WEARING MY COSTUME WON'T HELP ME... BUT IF I'M GOING TO BE SAVING PEOPLE-- THE SPANDEX TAKES THE EDGE OFF.
IT DOWNPLAYS THE WHOLE "MONSTER" IMAGE.
ANY MORE WORDS OF WISDOM?
I HAVE TOLD YOU ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW. YOUR ACTIONS ARE YOUR OWN.
WISH ME LUCK!

NO WAY! ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
OF COURSE NOT--WHY IN THE WORLD WOULD I HELP YOU? I DON'T WORK FOR YOU, CECIL--I DON'T LIKE YOU.
GET REAL HERE, KID. YOU THINK FOR A MINUTE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SLEEP TONIGHT KNOWING THIS GUY IS OUT THERE--KNOWING WHAT HE DID?
I KNOW YOU TOO WELL.
LOOK, KID--YOU THINK WE WANT TO ASK FOR THIS? I TRIED TO TAKE THIS GUY OUT--AND I FAILED.
HE'S TOUGH--BUT YOU COULD PROBABLY GET THIS GUY FOR US IN AN AFTERNOON.
EXCEPT--Y'KNOW--I DON'T TRUST YOU PEOPLE!
HAVEN'T YOU WATCHED THE NEWS?! THIS MAN MURDERED HIS WIFE IN COLD BLOOD! HIS DAUGHTER SAW THE WHOLE THING. HE ABANDONED HER--RUINED HER LIFE!
THIS MAN WAS A BILLIONAIRE! HE THOUGHT HE WAS ABOVE THE LAW. NOW HE'S OUT THERE--ROAMING FREE, ABLE TO KILL AGAIN.
I COULD SEND THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE--BUT YOU COULD FIND HIM FASTER--YOU COULD STOP HIM EASIER.
JUST HELP ME THIS ONCE--IF YOU DO, I'LL HAVE MY PEOPLE LOOK OVER THIS ORB YOU THINK I WAS SPYING ON YOU WITH--SEE IF WE CAN'T FIND OUT WHO'S WATCHING YOU, AND WHY.
DEAL?
I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE ANYONE SMARTER THAN ROBOT ON STAFF--SO THAT OFFER DOESN'T MEAN MUCH.
CRAP--WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM. THE GIANT HAS ESCAPED AND IS ON A RAMPAGE--HE'S TEARING THROUGH--WELL--THE EXACT SAME REGION WOLF-MAN WAS LAST SEEN.
TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE?

MAYBE THIS WASN'T THE BEST IDEA--
WHAT WAS I THINKING?
YOU'RE HURTING ME! THAT'S NOT FAIR!
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE--I JUST WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE!
OH, CRAP!
I ESCAPED! I JUST WANT TO GO HOME!
I'M NEVER GOING TO BE PRESIDENT. I'M TOO STRONG TO BE LOCKED UP-- WHY ARE YOU ATTACKING ME?!
YOU'RE HURTING PEOPLE-- YOU NEED TO STOP!

COULD HAVE GONE THE REST OF MY LIFE WITHOUT FIGHTING THIS GUY AGAIN.
WRAKOOM!
I'VE GOT YOU-- WHAT'S THE SITUATION HERE?
SEEMS THIS GUY'S ON HIS WAY SOMEWHERE-- HE DOESN'T MAKE A WHOLE LOT OF SENSE.
I KNOW A LITTLE ABOUT HIM... NOT MUCH.
I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S KILLED ANYONE-- HE TRAMPLED A FEW TRUCKS-- HE'S BAD NEWS, I WAS TRYING TO STOP HIM.

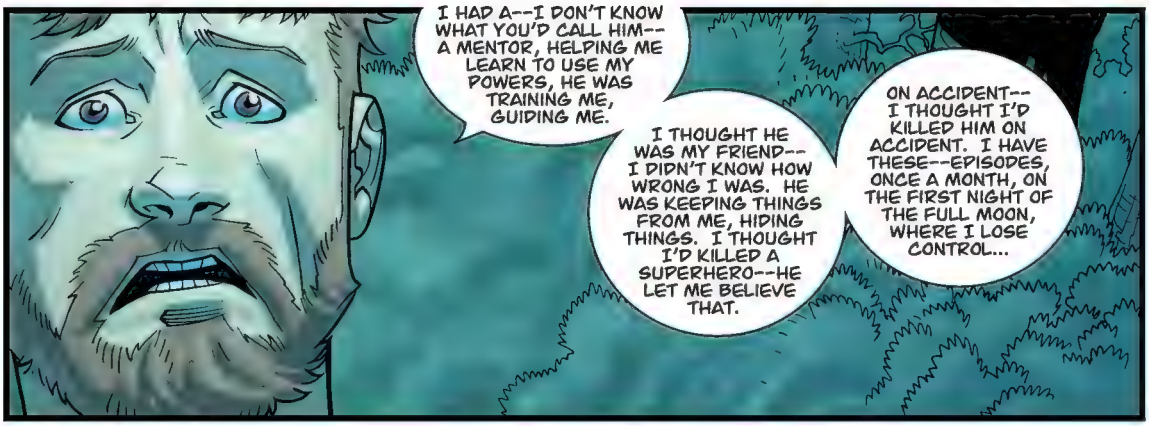
WHO DARES?!
I WAS A KING! I LED A KINGDOM!
WHO DARES STRIKE ME?!
WHO?!
BRAKKADOOOM!!
THAT WOULD BE ME.
YOU-- IRK!!
WROKK!

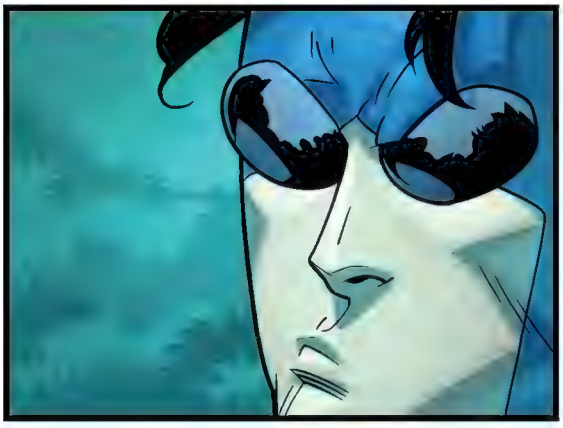

GOOM!
NO--
PLEASE--?!
SKRAKKAKK!
BA-BOOM!!!
TRUST ME--
JUST STAY
DOWN, KID!
I HAVE
SYMPATHY FOR
YOU--I DO, BUT
REALLY, I CAN'T LET
YOU JUST RUN AROUND
ON A RAMPAGE--YOU
HAVE TO BE STOPPED--
I DON'T WANT TO
HURT YOU.
SERIOUSLY--
JUST GIVE
UP!

WHAT--
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
JUST--I DON'T KNOW--SIT HERE QUIETLY UNTIL SOMEONE COMES ALONG TO TAKE YOU INTO CUSTODY.
THEY'RE JUST GOING TO TRY AND HELP YOU.
LET THEM.
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
HE'S JUST A KID--GOT PULLED INTO SOME OTHER DIMENSION--TURNED INTO THAT THING. THEY GOT HIM IN SOME KIND OF FACILITY OUT HERE--MUST HAVE ESCAPED.
GOVERNMENT'S TRYING TO TURN HIM BACK INTO A NORMAL KID--IT ISN'T GOING WELL.
WELL, THANKS. I DON'T THINK I COULD HAVE HANDLED HIM ON MY OWN.
I OWE YOU FOR HELPING ME OUT WITH DOC SEISMIC A FEW WEEKS BACK.
STILL THOUGH--I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TURN YOU IN.

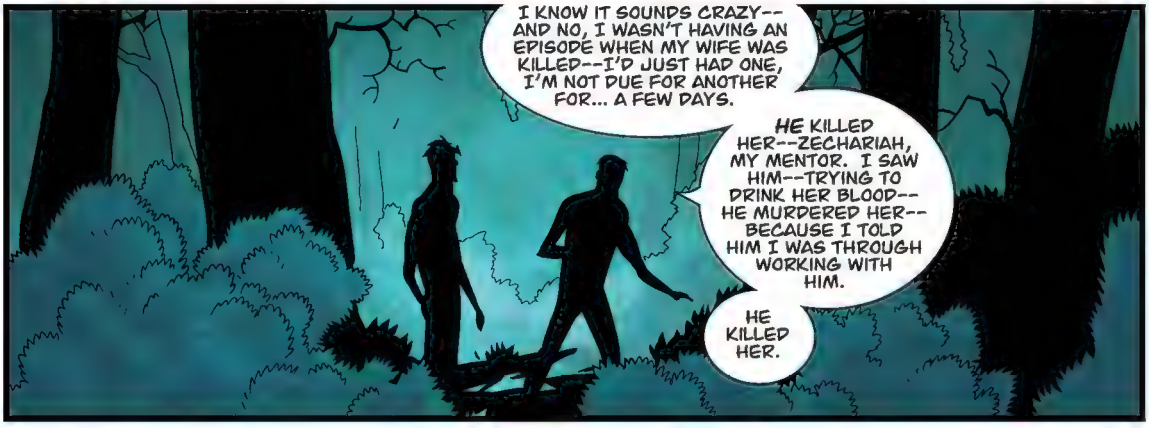
CRAP.
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE--
--RUN!
POW!
THOOM!
YOU KILLED YOUR WIFE. YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.
FIVE MINUTES... PLEASE. JUST LISTEN TO ME FOR FIVE MINUTES.

SORRY, I REALLY DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT.
PLEASE-- JUST STOP. I CAN EXPLAIN-- I DIDN'T KILL MY WIFE. I DIDN'T.
MY DAUGHTER-- SHE SAW ME WITH MY WIFE'S BODY-- THAT'S WHY THEY THINK I DID IT. BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED, I SWEAR.
YOUR DAUGHTER?
SHE SAW YOU?
I FOUND MY WIFE LIKE THAT--DEAD ON THE FLOOR. I HELD HER, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.
CHLOE-- MY DAUGHTER-- SHE FOUND US LIKE THAT.
I'M SORRY, THAT'S--
--ARE YOU LYING TO ME?
NO, I'M NOT--LOOK, I'M REVERTING BACK TO MY HUMAN FORM--I'M HELPLESS--I'M NOT GOING TO FIGHT BACK, I'M NOT TRYING TO TRICK YOU.
I DIDN'T KILL MY WIFE. PLEASE-- PLEASE BELIEVE ME.
I JUST NEED SOMEBODY TO BELIEVE ME.
IF YOU DIDN'T KILL HER--THEN WHO DID?


I HAD A--I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'D CALL HIM--A MENTOR, HELPING ME LEARN TO USE MY POWERS, HE WAS TRAINING ME, GUIDING ME.
I THOUGHT HE WAS MY FRIEND--I DIDN'T KNOW HOW WRONG I WAS. HE WAS KEEPING THINGS FROM ME, HIDING THINGS. I THOUGHT I'D KILLED A SUPERHERO--HE LET ME BELIEVE THAT.
ON ACCIDENT--I THOUGHT I'D KILLED HIM ON ACCIDENT. I HAVE THESE--EPISODES, ONCE A MONTH, ON THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON, WHERE I LOSE CONTROL...



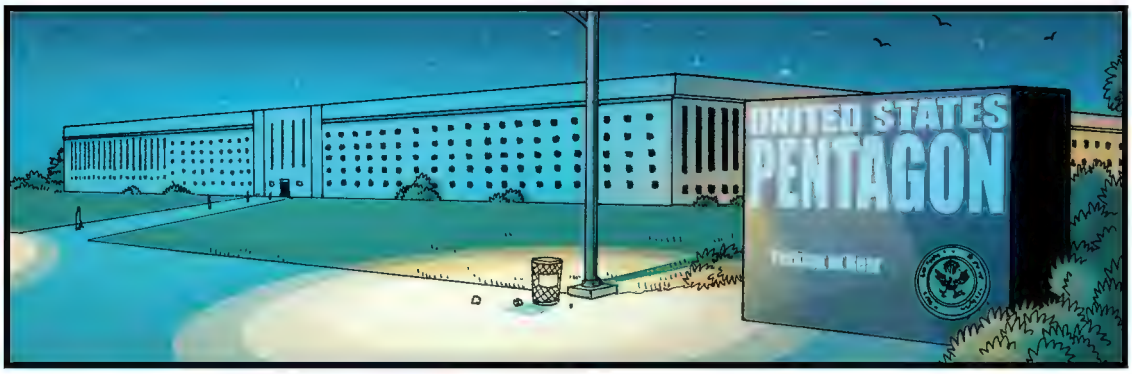
I'M LISTENING...


I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY--AND NO, I WASN'T HAVING AN EPISODE WHEN MY WIFE WAS KILLED--I'D JUST HAD ONE, I'M NOT DUE FOR ANOTHER FOR... A FEW DAYS.
HE KILLED HER--ZECHARIAH, MY MENTOR. I SAW HIM--TRYING TO DRINK HER BLOOD--HE MURDERED HER--BECAUSE I TOLD HIM I WAS THROUGH WORKING WITH HIM.
HE KILLED HER.

HE KILLED HER.

HE KILLED MY WIFE.
SHE'S DEAD.

JEEZ, DUDE--I'M REALLY SORRY. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D--
I'M REALLY NOT GOOD AT THIS.
NO, I'M SORRY, IT'S JUST... I'VE BEEN RUNNING SO LONG, SINCE IT HAPPENED...
I HAVEN'T REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT MUCH. IT JUST--
JUST LET ME TAKE YOU IN--TELL THEM YOUR STORY, I DON'T THINK--
NO! I HAVE TO HUNT DOWN ZECHARIAH! I CAN'T HAVE HIM OUT THERE-- ROAMING FREE.
I HAVE TO RECONCILE WITH MY DAUGHTER-- SHE HAS TO KNOW I DIDN'T DO THIS. SHE HAS TO.
I'M HERE-- THERE'S ANOTHER WEREWOLF--THE ONE WHO TURNED ME-- HE'S VERY POWERFUL, HE'S TEACHING ME HOW TO FIGHT ZECHARIAH-- HOW TO BRING HIM TO JUSTICE. ONCE I'M DONE HERE I CAN--
JUST LET ME TAKE YOU IN. IF YOU TELL YOUR STORY TO THE GUY WHO SENT ME AFTER YOU--I'M SURE HE'LL LISTEN.
GUY WITH YOUR POWERS-- HE'S PROBABLY TRYING TO RECRUIT YOU. NO MATTER WHAT HE THINKS YOU DID.
I BELIEVE YOU.
JUST LET ME TAKE YOU IN.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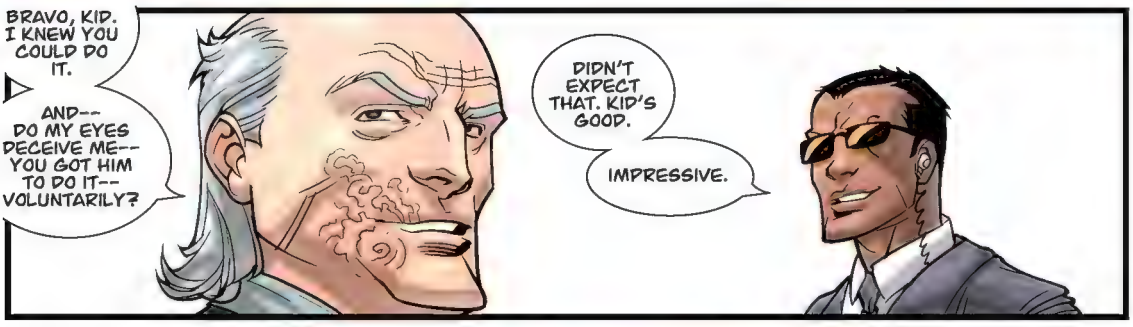
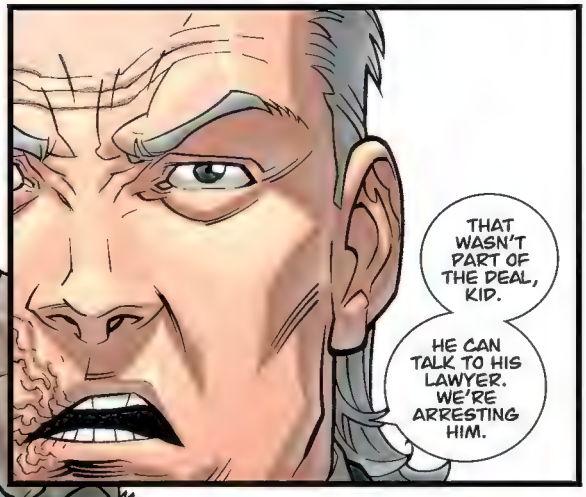
PENTAGON


BRAVO, KID. I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT.
AND-- DO MY EYES DECEIVE ME-- YOU GOT HIM TO DO IT-- VOLUNTARILY?
DIDN'T EXPECT THAT. KID'S GOOD.
IMPRESSIVE.

THANKS, BUT HE'S NOT HERE TO TURN HIMSELF IN.
HE'S HERE TO TALK.


THAT WASN'T PART OF THE DEAL, KID.
HE CAN TALK TO HIS LAWYER. WE'RE ARRESTING HIM.

THEN I'M CHANGING THE DEAL. YOU CAN LISTEN TO WHAT HE HAS TO SAY--THAT DOESN'T HURT ANYTHING.

AGENT HUNTER, CAN YOU PLEASE EXCUSE US?

GOOD LUCK, MURDERER.

IT'S OKAY-- JUST LET ME TALK TO HIM.

ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT YOU CAN PARDON MURDERING PSYCHOPATHS LIKE DARKWING--BUT YOU CAN'T EVEN HEAR HIS STORY?
THAT'S INSANE.

NOTHING I CAN DO HERE, KID. HIS STORY'S TOO PUBLIC. THERE'S NO WAY I CAN HAVE HIM RUNNING AROUND IN THE CLEAR. EVERYONE KNOWS WHO GARY HAMPTON IS-- THE WEREWOLF SUPERHERO WIFE-KILLER.
IT'S NOT LIKE HE COULD GO BY ANOTHER NAME OR ANYTHING EITHER... THE FUR TENDS TO GIVE HIM AWAY.
NO, SADLY-- HE'S USELESS TO ME. I'VE GOT TO BE PRACTICAL HERE, INVINCIBLE. IF HE'S GOT A STORY TO TELL--HE CAN TELL IT TO A JURY.

THIS GUY ISN'T A KILLER-- I ARRIVED TO SEE HIM RISKING HIS LIFE TRYING TO SAVE PEOPLE FROM THE GIANT-- TRUST ME--HE'S ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.
I'M NOT LETTING YOU ARREST HIM!

I KNOW YOU TOO WELL.
DIDN'T YOU WONDER WHY I HAD YOU MEET ME IN THE WHITE ROOM?

OH, GREAT.
THIS AGAIN.
TO BE CONTINUED IN
THE ASTOUNDING
WOLF-MAN
#11!

THE ASTOUNDING
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VERSUS
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PART 2 OF 2

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DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON, THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY, LED BY CECIL STEDMAN.
PENTAGON
I'M TELLING YOU RIGHT NOW--THIS MAN IS INNOCENT! WHY WON'T YOU JUST BELIEVE ME?!
I DIDN'T KILL MY WIFE.
THEN I'M SURE A JURY WILL SIDE WITH YOU IN THE END.
I DON'T MAKE THE LAWS, KIDS. LET'S NOT DO THIS AGAIN, INVINCIBLE. SURRENDER OR BE TAKEN BY FORCE.
OH, GREAT.
STRONG.
HOW STRONG ARE THESE THINGS, INVINCIBLE?

WRAKA!

LET'S FIND OUT HOW STRONG!

THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

SKRAGGG!

THEY'RE TOUGH AS ALL HELL, BUT I THINK YOU CAN HANDLE IT.

KRAKOOM!

I'M GOOD FOR NOW--BUT HOW MANY OF THESE THINGS ARE THERE?

WRAKOOM!

SERIOUSLY, GUYS--THIS IS POINTLESS.

YOU'RE VASTLY OUT-NUMBERED!

HE'S RIGHT--WE SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR AN OPENING.

I'M WITH YOU--JUST CLEAR THE WAY AND I'LL FOLLOW.

KRAKOOM!

THE WAY--IS UP!
KROOM!!
STATES
TAGON
THIS IS UNCOMFORTABLE.
I GET THAT A LOT.

I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU GOING TO BAT FOR ME BACK THERE.
I HOPE IT DOESN'T GET YOU IN TOO MUCH TROUBLE.
I'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER. WE'RE--
KROOM!
CRAP!
VOOSH!
THUDD!
WHUMP!

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
UGH.
YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK CECIL WOULD JUST LET YOU GO AGAIN, DID YOU?
YOU'RE IN DEEP, INVINCIBLE. PROTECTING A MURDERER IS SERIOUS BUSINESS.

PROTECTING A MURDERER, HUH? THAT'S SOMETHING YOU GUYS ARE AGAINST?
YOU KEEP ODD COMPANY, THEN.
MY PAST IS MY PAST--WHY CAN'T YOU GET OVER THAT?! I WAS NOT WELL--I'M BETTER NOW.
I SEEM TO RECALL A FEW BLACK MARKS ON YOUR--
THAT ISN'T WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.
WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS, MARK--WE DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT YOU.
OH, REALLY?! YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LET US GO?
SWEET!
I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT.
IT WASN'T.
I KNOW.

WROOOOM!
I'M NOT A BAD GUY--I SWEAR. I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU--I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU!
PLEASE JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
WROK!
DON'T BOTHER, WOLF-MAN--THESE GUYS HAVE THEIR MARCHING ORDERS. THEY'RE COMPANY MEN--THEY DON'T THINK FOR THEMSELVES.
THAT HURTS, INVINCIBLE!
I USED TO THINK YOU WERE COOL!
WRAMM!
LIKE I CARE!
KROOM!

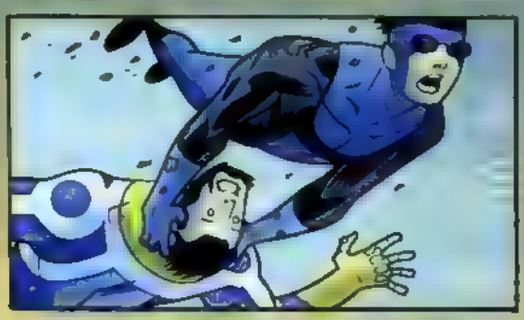
I'M ALMOST AS STRONG AS MY FATHER NOW--HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO HOLD YOUR OWN?!
YES--YOU'RE GETTING MORE LIKE YOUR FATHER EVERY DAY.
DO YOU THINK THAT'S A GOOD THING?
WROK!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS-- THIS ISN'T YOUR FIGHT!
SHRIPP!
WE MADE IT OUR FIGHT-- MURDERER!
KRAK!
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME!
KOOM!
IMMORTAL!
LET'S SEE HOW LONG YOU LAST IN THE SHADOW-VERSE!
WHAT--?!

OH, NO YOU DON'T!
WHOOSH!!
THOOM!
WRAKK!
SKROOM!
DAMN IT--
--STOP!

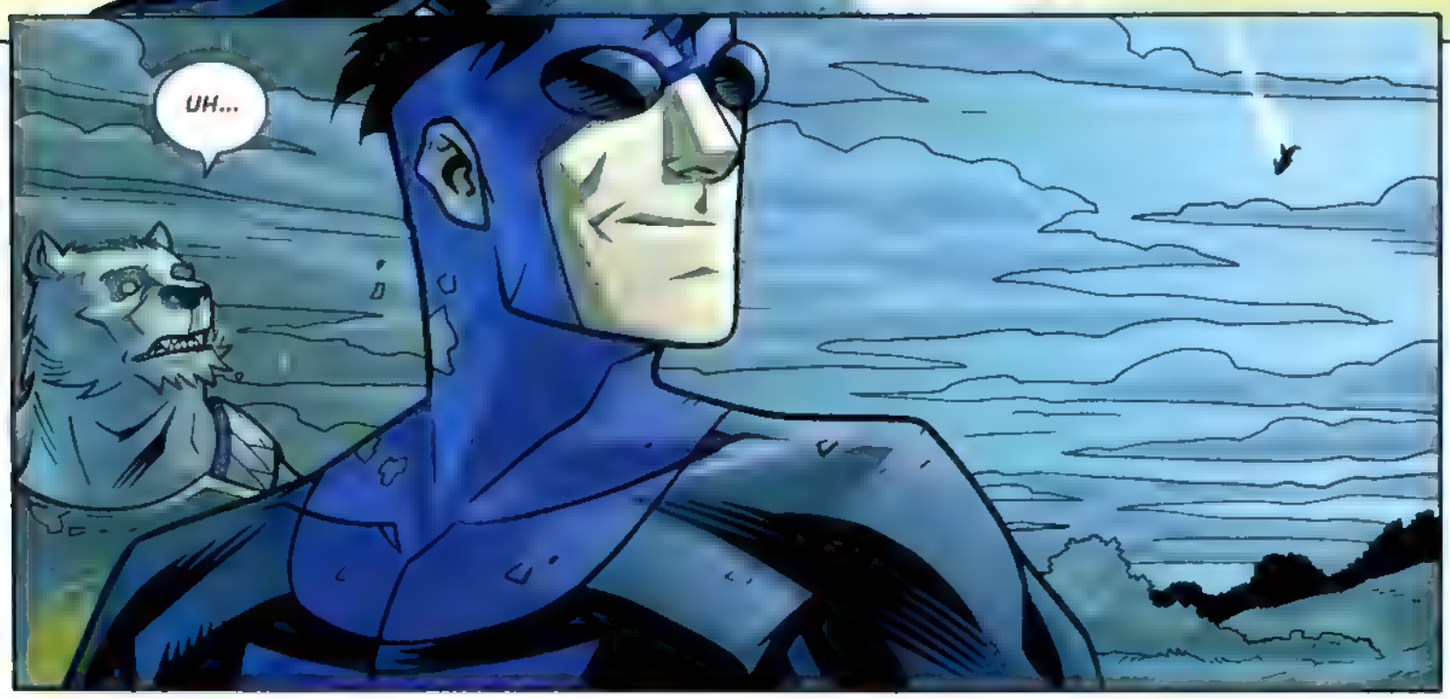
I KNOW YOU'RE GOOD PEOPLE! I KNOW YOU'RE TRYING TO DO WHAT YOU THINK IS RIGHT!
DAMN IT! I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU-- AND I'M SICK OF HOLDING BACK!

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT US TO DO? DO YOU WANT US TO JUST LET YOU TAKE THIS CRIMINAL AND RUN?!
DO YOU THINK WE FIND YOU INTIMIDATING?! YOU ARE A CHILD-- WE'RE THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINK---?!

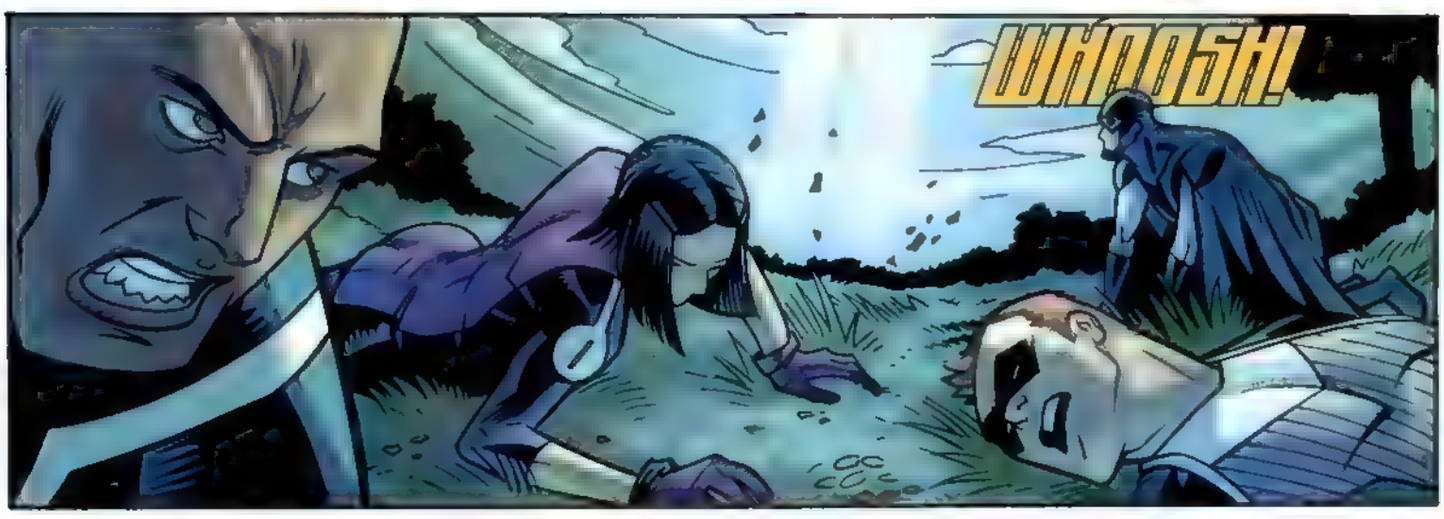
THAP!



WRAKKA-DOOM!!


UH...

WE'RE OUT OF HERE.


WHOOSH!

COOL. I THINK WE LOST THEM.
GREAT.
THAT TOTALLY DID NOT WORK OUT THE WAY I THOUGHT IT WOULD.
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT.
YOU COULDN'T HAVE PLANNED FOR THAT--DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I JUST HOPE I DIDN'T GET YOU IN TROUBLE WITH SCAR FACE BACK THERE.
I DON'T WANT THEM HUNTING YOU DOWN BECAUSE OF ME.
WE'VE HAD OUR DIFFERENCES BEFORE, BUT I THINK DEEP DOWN, CECIL--THAT'S HIS NAME--KNOWS THAT IF THERE'S A METEOR COMING TO TAKE OUT EARTH... I'M HIS BEST BET ON KEEPING THIS PLANET ALIVE.
AS LONG AS THAT'S STILL TRUE--I GET A PASS.
STILL, THANKS FOR STICKING YOUR NECK OUT FOR ME--MEANS A LOT.
DON'T MENTION IT.
...
SO... WHERE TO?

THE HAMPTON ESTATE.
WHEN SHE SAW ME HOLDING MY WIFE'S BODY... I KNEW--
I KNEW SHE THOUGHT I'D KILLED HER.
I DIED MYSELF, THAT VERY INSTANT... MY LIFE WAS OVER.
GETTING CAUGHT--WHAT THOSE PEOPLE WILL DO TO ME--NONE OF THAT SCARES ME. THAT'S NOT WHY I RAN. I NEED TIME TO SET THINGS STRAIGHT...
...TO SHOW HER SHE STILL HAS A FATHER.
AND HE'S STILL OUT THERE--THE MAN WHO DID KILL YOUR WIFE?
SOMEWHERE, YEAH. I DON'T KNOW WHERE.
I NEVER KNEW WHERE HE WENT WHEN WE WEREN'T WORKING TOGETHER--HE ALWAYS FOUND ME.
HE'S STILL OUT THERE.
ZECHARIAH--

YOU TRIPPED THE SILENT ALARM.
I KNOW. WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?

I SAW THAT IT WAS YOU ON THE SECURITY FEED. THOUGHT I'D GIVE YOU A MOMENT ALONE...
...AND I HAD TO FIND MY ROBE.
WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?

INVINCIBLE, THIS IS MY FRIEND DUNFORD.
NICE TO MEET YOU.

AND THE SAME TO YOU.
I SUPPOSE I HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR THIS VISIT. IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, GARY.

ARE YOU... OKAY?

I DIDN'T KILL REBECCA.
I KNOW YOU DIDN'T. I KNEW YOU, GARY... I KNOW YOU COULD NEVER DO SUCH A THING.
WAS IT HIM?
IT WAS... AND I REMEMBER YOU WARNING ME ABOUT HIM.
I DIDN'T LISTEN...
I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED.
YOU COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN. THIS ISN'T YOUR FAULT.
HOW IS SHE? HOW'S CHLOE?

NOT WELL. SADLY.
NOT WELL AT ALL.
I'M TRYING TO BE SUPPORTIVE, I KNOW SHE'S GOING THROUGH A LOT--BUT I WAS NEVER CUT OUT TO BE A PARENT. I DON'T KNOW IF I'M DOING WHAT SHE NEEDS.
I'M GIVING HER SPACE. SHE DOESN'T SPEND A LOT OF TIME HERE. SHE'S STILL GOING TO SCHOOL, BUT HER GRADES ARE SUFFERING.
THE SCHOOL KNOWS THE SITUATION--THEY'RE BEING VERY UNDERSTANDING.
SHE'S JUST SO... ANGRY. SHE DOESN'T TALK TO ME... I'VE TRIED TO GET HER TO OPEN UP TO ME--BUT NOTHING SEEMS TO WORK. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
DOES SHE THINK I...?
SHE DOES. SHE THINKS YOU LOST CONTROL--WENT INTO A RAGE AND REBECCA...
I HAVEN'T TALKED TO HER ABOUT IT--MAYBE I SHOULD--
NO!
I'LL MAKE THIS RIGHT. IF YOU TRY TO CONVINCE HER I DIDN'T KILL HER MOTHER IT'LL JUST DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN YOU. SHE'S NOT READY TO BELIEVE YOU.
SHE HAS NO REASON TO.

I'LL GIVE HER THE REASON TO BELIEVE ME. I'LL SHOW HER THE KIND OF MAN THAT I AM--THE KIND OF MAN I'VE ALWAYS BEEN.
I JUST NEED TIME. DUNFORD, JUST GIVE ME THE TIME TO PROVE TO HER.
I'LL BRING DOWN ZECHARIAH--EXPOSE HIM FOR WHAT HE IS--AND SHE'LL HAVE TO BELIEVE ME.
I'LL GET MY LITTLE GIRL BACK.
I'LL GIVE YOU AS MUCH TIME AS YOU NEED.
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, GARY.
WHEN THE TIME COMES, I'LL HELP OUT IN ANY WAY I CAN.
I REALLY WISH I COULD HELP MORE. I'M VERY SORRY.
DON'T BE. YOU'VE HELPED ENOUGH. BRINGING ME HERE--TRYING TO CLEAR THINGS WITH THE GOVERNMENT.
I ALMOST HATE TO ASK, BUT I DO NEED ONE MORE THING FROM YOU.
NAME IT.
I NEED YOU TO GET ME OUT OF HERE.

YOU'RE SURE YOU WANT ME TO BRING YOU BACK HERE?
THEY KNOW YOU WERE HERE-- WON'T THEY COME HERE AGAIN TO ARREST YOU?
MAYBE THEY WILL... I'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT.
IT'S IMPORTANT I STAY HERE-- I'M LEARNING THINGS.
I REALLY SHOULD BE GETTING BACK--MY GIRLFRIEND'S PROBABLY WONDERING WHY I HAVEN'T CALLED HER TONIGHT.
GOOD LUCK.
WHO WAS THAT?
SOMETHING I THOUGHT I MIGHT NEVER HAVE AGAIN...
...A FRIEND.

DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON, THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY, LED BY CECIL STEDMAN.
PENTAGON
YES, IDENTITY CONFIRMED. IT'S GARY HAMPTON. WE'VE GOT A FIX ON HIS LOCATION.
WE'RE MONITORING ON SATELLITES-- WE'VE GOT A CLEAR VIEW.
STAND BY FOR INSTRUCTIONS.
NO.
WE KNOW WHERE HE IS-- WE'LL KEEP HIM UNDER SURVEILLANCE.
I'M STILL DECIDING WHAT TO DO WITH HIM. HE MAY STILL PROVE USEFUL TO ME...
YOU WANT ME TO GO IN?

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ROBERT KIRKMAN
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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN #12. January 2009. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2134 Allston Way, 2nd Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704.

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JUST OUTSIDE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS--ABOUT A MILE AWAY FROM STRONGHOLD PENITENTIARY.
STRONGHOLD
PENITENTIARY
WHO THE HELL IS THAT?
I DON'T KNOW. BAIT? WE KILL HER AND THEY KNOW WE GOT LOOSE BEFORE THEY GOT US IN THE PRISON. MAYBE ALARMS GO OFF IF WE BREAK HER NECK.
INMATE
NAH, I'M THINKING REPORTER... SOME KIND OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM ABOUT THE TREATMENT OF SUPER-INMATES.
BRAVE, STUPID OR BOTH--WHAT IS IT, LADY?
I'M HERE FOR THE SAME REASON YOU ARE--I'M EVIL AND I CAN'T STOP.
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!
AARGGH!
STRONGHOLD
PENITENTIARY
SKREEECH!!
KRUUM!

SKRO-KOOM!
SKRIT SKRIT SKRIT
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?!
I DID SOME READING. I KNEW THE RESTRAINTS WE WERE IN WOULD ENSURE OUR SURVIVAL IN NEARLY ANY CRASH... AND WITH THE ENGINE DESTROYED, THEY WOULD POWER DOWN AND RELEASE US.
IT'S A FLAWED DESIGN.
INMATE
RUMM!
YOU GUYS COMING OR NOT?

LATER THAT EVENING.
KROOM!
SKRAGG!
EITHER I'M GETTING FASTER-- OR YOU'RE GETTING SLOWER.
C'MON-- DON'T GO EASY ON ME.
WE ARE DONE HERE.
WHAT? WE'RE CALLING IT A NIGHT ALREADY?
I'M SHOCKED-- YOU'VE BEEN TRAINING ME RIGHT UP UNTIL DAWN FOR THE LAST FEW DAYS.

NO. NOT DONE FOR THE EVENING.
DONE.
WHAT LITTLE MORE YOU HAVE TO LEARN--YOU MUST DO ON YOUR OWN. THERE IS NOTHING MORE I CAN TEACH YOU.
WHAT?
ONCE YOU LEAVE MY FOREST, DO NOT RETURN.
YOU WILL NOT BE WELCOME.
WHAT THE--?!
WHAT THE HELL DO I DO NOW?

ELSEWHERE, CONSTRUCT, THRILL-KILL AND ERUPTOR ARRIVE AT AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION.
FOLLOW ME.
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
THIS IS MY SANCTUARY--YOU TWO ARE THE FIRST TO SEE WHAT I'VE CREATED HERE.
FEEL FREE TO TAKE A LOOK AROUND--BUT DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING. I'LL BE IN THE MONITOR ROOM CHECKING THE POLICE BAND FOR ANYTHING ABOUT US.
WHAT THE--?! SO ARE WE WORKING TOGETHER NOW AND SHE'S THE LEADER?
WHEN DID WE AGREE TO THAT?
I NEVER DID.
HUH?
SHUNK!

SWOOSH!
SORRY.
I WORK ALONE.
I THINK I'M GOING TO LIKE MY NEW HIDEOUT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE BROUGHT US HERE. HOW NAIVE...
SKRKK!
SWOOSH!
MY FAULT FOR NOT SPECIFYING. THIS AREA IS OFF-LIMITS.

SORRY, THIS IS MY PLACE NOW!
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.

DON'T WORRY, LADY--I'VE GOT YOU COVERED!
WHOOSH!!!

ENOUGH TO STUN ME--BUT IT TAKES A LOT MORE THAN A SLASHED NECK TO KILL ME.
WE'RE EVEN NOW.
YOU BROKE ME OUT OF THAT PRISON TRANSPORT--AND I SAVED YOUR LIFE.
HOW SO?
YOU DID NO SUCH THING.
THRILL-KILL, FIGHT THROUGH THE PAIN, STAND UP AND ATTACK ME. NOW, ERUPTOR--DON'T STOP HIM THIS TIME.

LADY--YOU'RE CRAZY.

CALL ME CONSTRUCT.. MY OTHER NAME IS MEANINGLESS. I'M NOT CRAZY. IF WE'RE GOING TO STAY OUT OF PRISON--AND ACTUALLY ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING, WE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER.
THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN UNTIL YOU RESPECT ME.
ATTACK ME. NOW.

OKAY CONSTRUCT. YOU ASKED FOR IT!

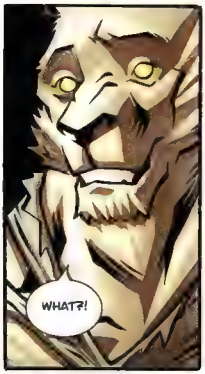
VOPP!
RAARGH!!
THE LASER ARRAY IS SET TO MONITOR MY PERSONAL SPACE. YOU COME CLOSE TO TOUCHING ME-- YOU LOSE WHATEVER YOU'RE TRYING TO TOUCH ME WITH.
YOU BITCH! IT'LL TAKE WEEKS FOR THESE TO GROW BACK!
NOTHING TOUCHES ME HERE.
NOTHING.
NOW THAT YOU BOTH KNOW THE GOLDEN RULE-- WHAT DO YOU SAY?
WHAT WERE YOUR GOALS BEFORE YOU WERE CAUGHT? MONEY? RESPECT? DOMINANCE? WE CAN ACCOMPLISH THAT AND SO MUCH MORE IF WE WORK TOGETHER.
SO... WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE?
I THINK TRIPLE THREAT IS A GOOD NAME...

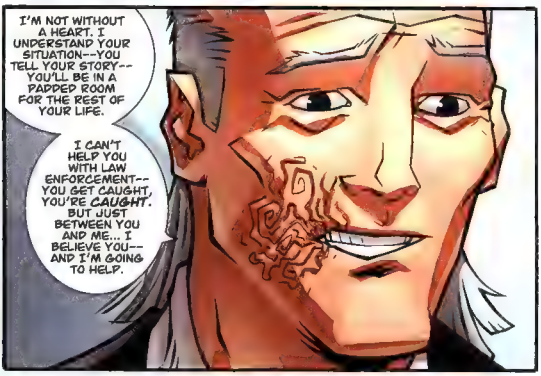
EAST
ST LOUIS
ZECHARIAH'S HOME.
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY. I KNOW IT WOULDN'T BE EASY FOR YOU.
LURE HIM TO ME. I CAN DO IT FOR YOU... IT'LL BE EASY--- DONE.
TRUST ME.
NO.
I CAME TO YOU FOR HELP. I WANT YOU TO HELP ME AVENGE MY MOTHER'S DEATH.
I HAVE TO KILL MY FATHER. IT'S THE ONLY WAY.
CHLOE, DEAR.
YOU'RE NOT FAST ENOUGH-- NOT STRONG ENOUGH.
I NEED TO BE FASTER.
I NEED TO BE STRONGER.
THERE ARE WAYS I CAN DO THIS... IF YOU ARE WILLING.

CONSTRUCT'S HIDEOUT.
MY ROBOTIC CONSTRUCTS CAN BUILD OR MAKE ALMOST ANYTHING. THEY'LL BE QUITE HANDY DURING OUR CURRENT ENDEAVOR.
SPEAKING OF WHICH-- I THINK WE NEED TO DEBUT STRONG, COME OUT ON THE SCENE WITH A CLEAR MESSAGE-- TRIPLE THREAT IS NOT TO BE SCREWED WITH.
NOT EXACT-- BUT CLOSE. BETTER IN SOME WAYS--MORE DURABLE, I THINK.
WE DON'T START WITH A HEIST--WE DON'T DRAW ATTENTION TO OURSELVES. I SAY WE HUNT THOSE WHO WOULD COME AFTER US BEFORE THEY EVEN KNOW WE EXIST.
WE'RE GOING TO TAKE DOWN A SUPERHERO.
ANY SUGGESTIONS?
WOLF-MAN.
WOLF-MAN.
YEAH... NICE.
I'M GLAD YOU APPROVE.
I WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT.
BECAUSE I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE HE IS.

EXACTLY WHERE WOLFMAN IS.
WESTEDGE
OUTLET CENTER
THE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T REALLY KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT.
THERE WAS TALK OF SELLING IT TO CAPES INCORPORATED-- BUT IT'S NOT BIG ENOUGH TO SUIT THEIR PURPOSES. SO THEY SAY-- THE ECONOMY BEING WHAT IT IS... WHO KNOWS.
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY. YOU THINK I WOULD HAVE COME HERE ALONE IF I CAME TO BRING YOU IN?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

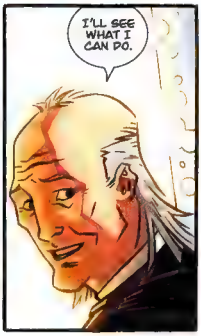
BEEN WATCHING YOU. SAW YOU WERE COMING BACK HERE-- THOUGHT WE'D HAVE A CHAT. NOT SMART COMING BACK... BUT IT'S NOT THE KIND OF THING A GUILTY MAN DOES.
I CAN'T HELP YOU... NOT OFFICIALLY AT LEAST. BUT YOU CAN STAY IN THIS PLACE UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT FIGURES OUT WHAT TO DO WITH IT... DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THAT WILL BE.
IT MIGHT JUST BE LONG ENOUGH TO CLEAR YOUR NAME.


WHAT?!


I'M NOT WITHOUT A HEART. I UNDERSTAND YOUR SITUATION--YOU TELL YOUR STORY--YOU'LL BE IN A PADDED ROOM FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
I CAN'T HELP YOU WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT--YOU GET CAUGHT, YOU'RE CAUGHT. BUT JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME... I BELIEVE YOU--AND I'M GOING TO HELP.

GOD HELP YOU IF I'M WRONG.

WAIT.
THERE WAS A RESTRAINT DEVICE HERE--I'M GOING TO NEED THAT SOON. CAN YOU GET IT FOR ME?


I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

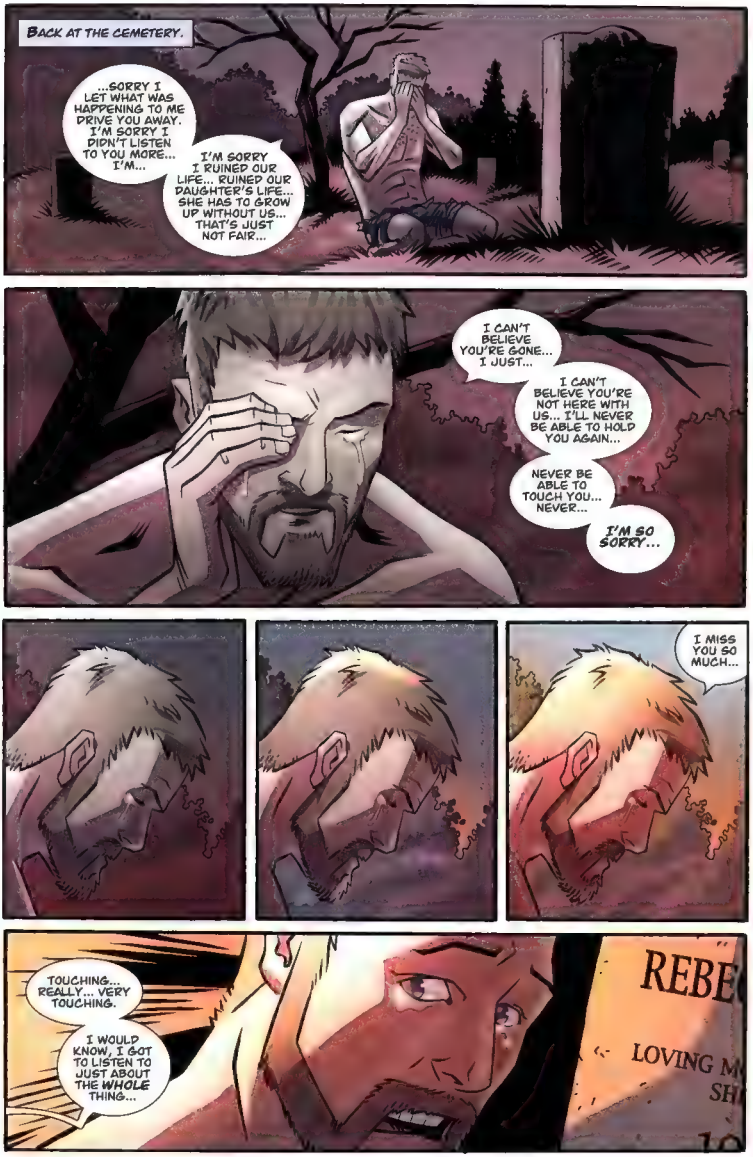
HIGH ABOVE MONTANA.
"WHERE ARE WE GOING?"
ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT OUR PREY IS THERE. ANYTHING MORE IS UNIMPORTANT.
WHO DIED AND MADE YOU LEADER?
NO ONE... YET.
NOW SHUT UP AND BRACE FOR IMPACT-- WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
THE SHIP--!
IT'S BREAKING APART!
OF COURSE IT IS.
AAAAHH!

THOOM!
THWOOSH!!
NEW SUIT--- THOUGHT I'D TRY IT OUT.
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND.

CYPRESS HILL CEMETERY.
THOOM!
I'M SORRY...
REBECCA HAMPTON
LOVING MOTHER TAKEN TOO SOON
SHE WILL BE MISSED.
1970-2008
I'M SO SORRY...

ELSEWHERE.
TOOM!
YEAH--HE'S HERE IN THIS FOREST--OR AT LEAST HE WAS WHEN HE WAS ON TV. EVEN IF HE IS STILL HERE--HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIND HIM?
IF WE MAKE ENOUGH NOISE--HE'LL COME TO US. TRUST ME.
YEAH, BRILLIANT PLAN, CONSTRUCT. SO WE'RE JUST SUPPOSED TO WAIT AND HOPE HE SHOWS UP? YOU COULDN'T HAVE BUILT SOME DOODAD TO HUNT HIM DOWN AND COME GET US WHEN IT FINDS HIM?
THIS COULD TAKE ALL NIGHT!
I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE, THRILL-KILL.
LOOK.

SKROOM!!
YOU DARE DEFACE MY FOREST!
THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!
UH...
YEAH... I DON'T THINK THAT'S WOLF-MAN.


BACK AT THE CEMETERY.
...SORRY I LET WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO ME DRIVE YOU AWAY. I'M SORRY I DIDN'T LISTEN TO YOU MORE... I'M...
I'M SORRY I RUINED OUR LIFE... RUINED OUR DAUGHTER'S LIFE... SHE HAS TO GROW UP WITHOUT US... THAT'S JUST NOT FAIR...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE GONE... I JUST...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE NOT HERE WITH US... I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO HOLD YOU AGAIN...
NEVER BE ABLE TO TOUCH YOU... NEVER...
I'M SO SORRY...
I MISS YOU SO MUCH...
TOUCHING... REALLY... VERY TOUCHING.
I WOULD KNOW, I GOT TO LISTEN TO JUST ABOUT THE WHOLE THING...
REBE
LOVING M
SH

...WHILE WE WERE WAITING FOR THE SUN TO COME UP.
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, GARY HAMPTON.
SWAT

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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN

ROBERT KIRKMAN writer

JASON HOWARD penciler

RUS WOOTON letterer

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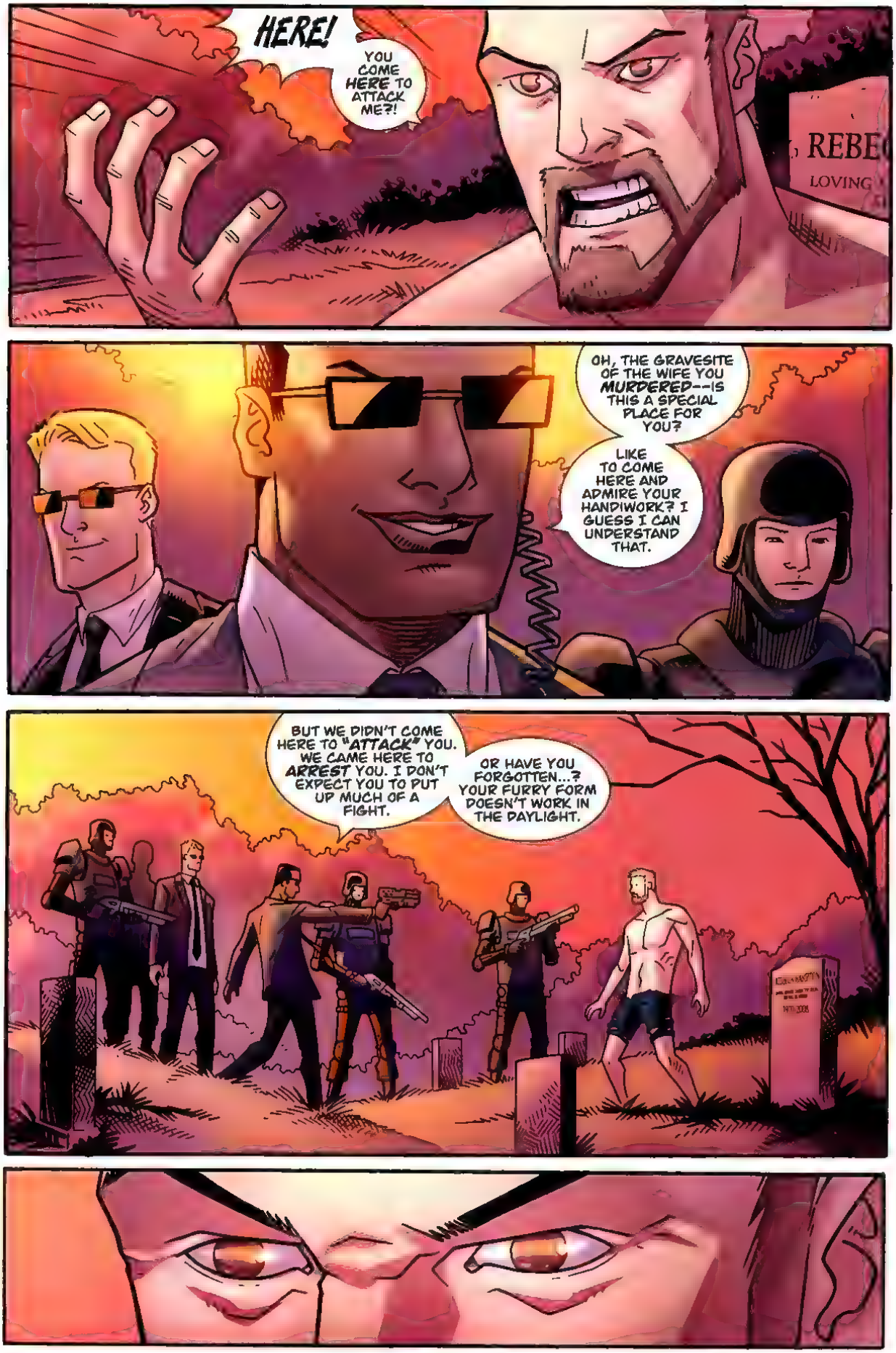

HERE!
YOU COME HERE TO ATTACK ME?!
REBE
LOVING
OH, THE GRAVESITE OF THE WIFE YOU MURDERED--IS THIS A SPECIAL PLACE FOR YOU?
LIKE TO COME HERE AND ADMIRE YOUR HANDIWORK? I GUESS I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT.
BUT WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO "ATTACK" YOU. WE CAME HERE TO ARREST YOU. I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO PUT UP MUCH OF A FIGHT.
OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN...? YOUR FURRY FORM DOESN'T WORK IN THE DAYLIGHT.

I'M READY TO GET STARTED, JUST LET ME--
NO!
NOW WE TRAIN YOU THE WAY YOU ARE. YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO FIGHT IF YOU ARE EVER ATTACKED DURING THE DAY.
WHA--?!
KRAK!
KROOM!
I MIGHT JUST SURPRISE YOU!
FREEZE!

STOP OR WE'LL--
DON'T SHOOT HIM! THERE'S NO REASON WE CAN'T TAKE HIM IN ALIVE.
SWAT
=HUFF!=
=HUFF!=
GOING TO HAVE TO MOVE FASTER THAN THAT, KILLER.
BLAM!
PLEASE.

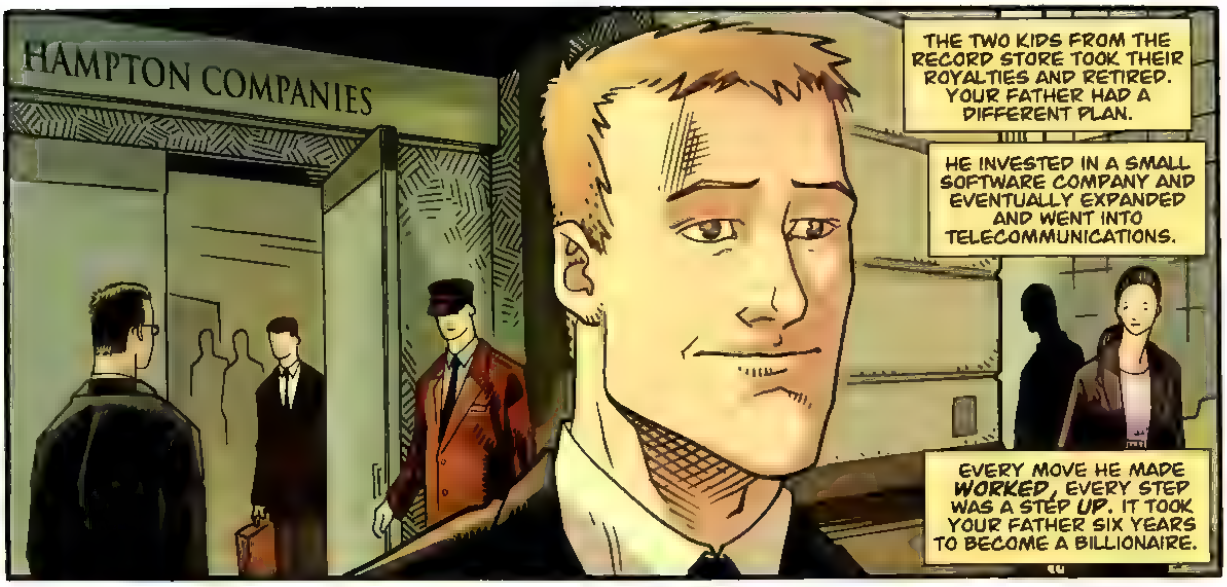
POW!
THUDD!
REBECCA HAMP
LOVING MOTHER TAKEN TOO SOON.
SHE WILL BE MISSED.
1970-2008
KROOM!
THAT WAS A SUCKER-PUNCH BEFORE. DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD GET AWAY FROM ME SO EASILY?
SAY GOODBYE, GARY.
BUT DON'T WORRY, IF THERE'S ANY JUSTICE IN THIS WORLD, A JURY OF YOUR PEERS WILL SEND YOU TO SEE HER REAL SOON.

MONTANA.
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE?
MY GOD--- SO MUCH DESTRUCTION... I HAVE NO IDEA HOW--
WHOA! HEY! GET OVER HERE!
I THINK WE BETTER CALL THE POLICE BEFORE THESE GUYS WAKE UP...

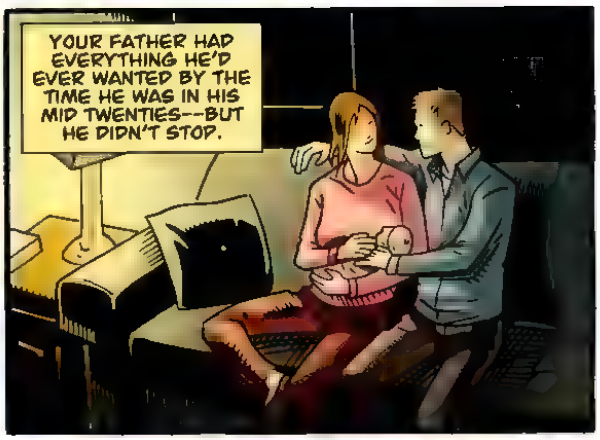
THE HAMPTON ESTATE.
WAKE UP, YOUNG LADY. IF YOU INSIST ON SNEAKING OUT AT NIGHT, I SEE NO REASON TO ENABLE YOU BY LETTING YOU SLEEP IN.
GET UP NOW.
OKAY, DUNFORD--- YOU'RE REALLY STARTING TO PISS ME OFF.
CHLOE, DEAR--WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
ARE YOU HURT?
SHUT UP AND LEAVE ME ALONE.
YOU'RE NOT MY FATHER.
I DON'T HAVE A FATHER!

DAMN IT, CHLOE--THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE!
YOUR FATHER IS ALIVE--HE'S STILL OUT THERE AND HE'S ENTRUSTED ME WITH YOUR CARE. I'M NOT GOING TO ALLOW YOU TO BE THIS WAY!
YOUR FATHER IS A GOOD MAN!
YOU NEED TO--
SPAKK!
STOP IT! DON'T DEFEND HIM!
SOME OF THIS YOU ALREADY KNOW. I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO ALL OF IT ANYWAY.

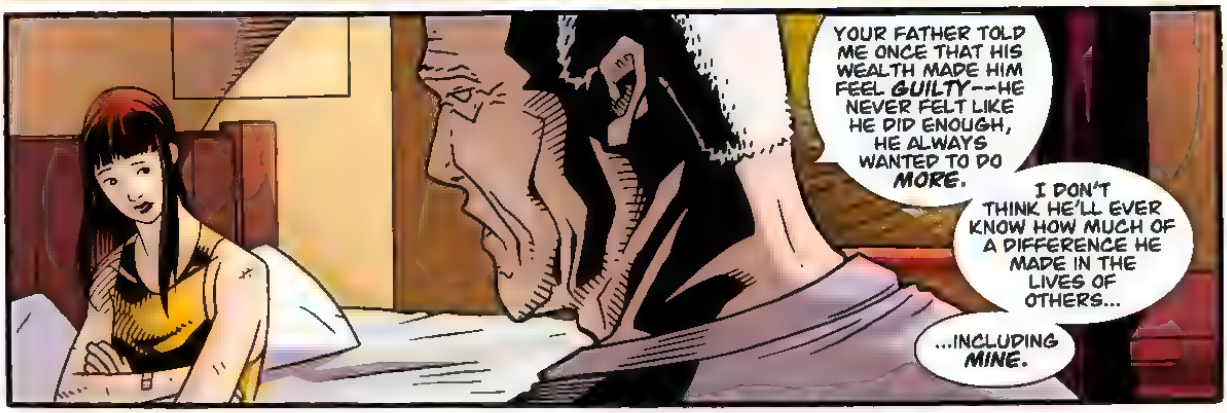
YOU KNOW HOW YOUR FATHER STARTED OUT. HE HAD A SMALL RECORD STORE AT AGE NINETEEN...
...WHICH TURNED INTO A SMALL RECORD COMPANY WHEN HE DECIDED TO PRODUCE AN ALBUM BY TWO KIDS WHO'D BEEN TURNED DOWN BY EVERYONE ELSE.
JONZON CALLING
YOUR MOTHER WAS THRILLED WHEN A SONG FROM THE ALBUM YOUR FATHER PRODUCED WAS PUT IN A MOVIE. THEY WERE ONLY DATING THEN.
WHEN THAT MOVIE BECAME THE NUMBER ONE MOVIE--THE SONG BECAME THE NUMBER ONE SINGLE AND THE ALBUM WENT PLATINUM IN LESS THAN A YEAR.
I ♥ NAT
THIS IS STUPID. WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?
CHLOE HAMPTON, I'VE KNOWN YOU ALMOST YOUR ENTIRE LIFE. EVER SINCE YOUR MOTHER DIED, YOU'VE TREATED ME LIKE A STRANGER YOU DON'T LIKE... AND I'VE LET YOU, BECAUSE YOU WERE GRIEVING.
NOW I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO ME. I DON'T THINK THAT'S TOO MUCH TO ASK.
FINE.
CONTINUE.

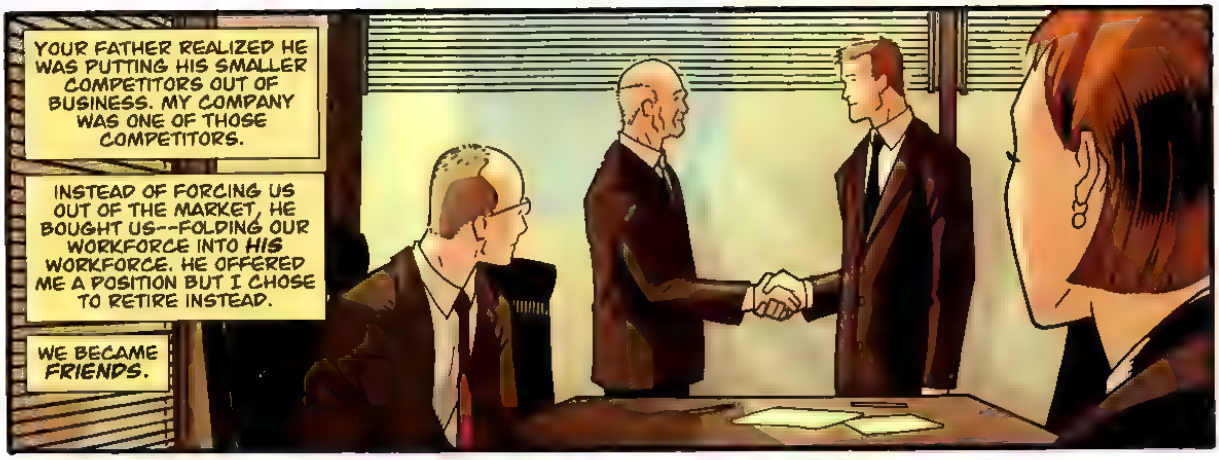

HAMPTON COMPANIES
THE TWO KIDS FROM THE RECORD STORE TOOK THEIR ROYALTIES AND RETIRED. YOUR FATHER HAD A DIFFERENT PLAN.
HE INVESTED IN A SMALL SOFTWARE COMPANY AND EVENTUALLY EXPANDED AND WENT INTO TELECOMMUNICATIONS.
EVERY MOVE HE MADE WORKED, EVERY STEP WAS A STEP UP. IT TOOK YOUR FATHER SIX YEARS TO BECOME A BILLIONAIRE.

DURING THAT TIME, HE EVEN MADE TIME TO MARRY YOUR MOTHER AND HAVE YOU.


YOUR FATHER HAD EVERYTHING HE'D EVER WANTED BY THE TIME HE WAS IN HIS MID TWENTIES--BUT HE DIDN'T STOP.

AS HIS WEALTH GREW, SO TOO DID HIS GENEROSITY.
HE FORMED CHARITIES, FUNDED PROJECTS, BUILT HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS AND SHELTERS. HE TOUCHED A GREAT MANY LIVES AND IMPROVED THEM... WITHOUT A DOUBT.


YOUR FATHER TOLD ME ONCE THAT HIS WEALTH MADE HIM FEEL GUILTY--HE NEVER FELT LIKE HE DID ENOUGH, HE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO MORE.
I DON'T THINK HE'LL EVER KNOW HOW MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE HE MADE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS...
...INCLUDING MINE.


YOUR FATHER REALIZED HE WAS PUTTING HIS SMALLER COMPETITORS OUT OF BUSINESS. MY COMPANY WAS ONE OF THOSE COMPETITORS.
INSTEAD OF FORCING US OUT OF THE MARKET, HE BOUGHT US--FOLDING OUR WORKFORCE INTO HIS WORKFORCE. HE OFFERED ME A POSITION BUT I CHOSE TO RETIRE INSTEAD.
WE BECAME FRIENDS.

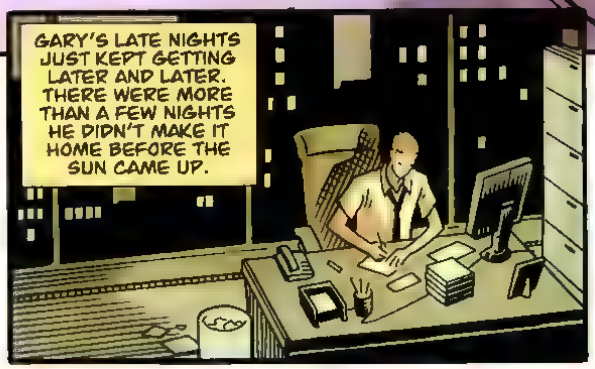
WHEN MY WIFE DIED I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH MYSELF.
I TOLD GARY I DIDN'T WANT TO GO BACK TO WORK WITH THE COMPANY, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO BE ALONE. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WANTED.
HE MADE ME HIS ESTATE MANAGER--BROUGHT ME IN TO LIVE WITH YOU, HE GAVE MY LIFE PURPOSE. I MAY NOT HAVE BEEN HIS CLOSEST FRIEND, BUT I KNOW HE WAS MINE.

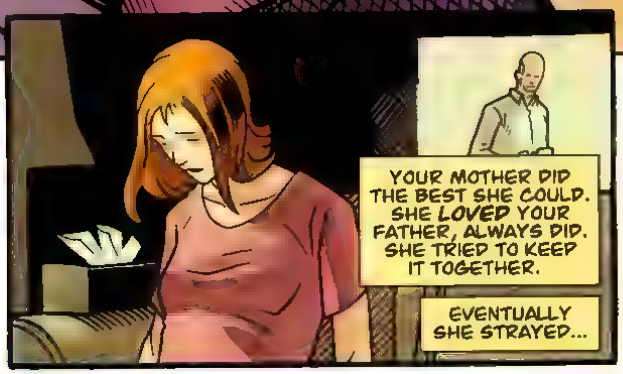
YOUR FATHER WAS A GREAT MAN, HE AND YOUR MOTHER...

THEY...
...

DUNFORD? WHAT IS IT?
DUNFORD?

I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH AND BY GOD I DON'T KNOW THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE KEPT IT FROM YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE.
YOUR FATHER IS COMMITTED, DEDICATED TO HIS DETRIMENT MOST OF THE TIME. I'D SAY HE WAS MARRIED TO HIS WORK, BUT HE WAS MARRIED TO YOUR MOTHER...
...HE JUST DIDN'T ALWAYS ACT LIKE IT.

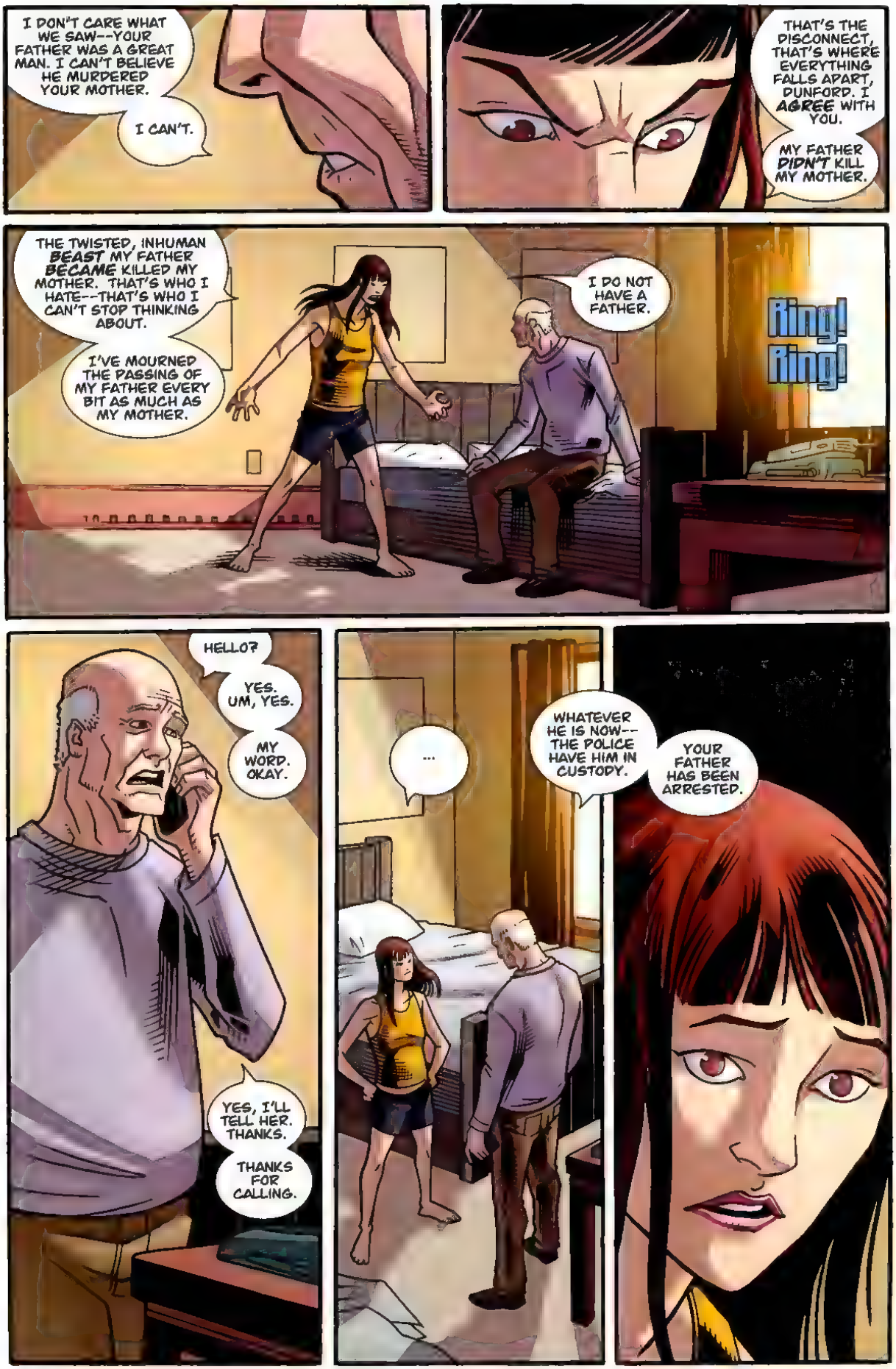

GARY'S LATE NIGHTS JUST KEPT GETTING LATER AND LATER. THERE WERE MORE THAN A FEW NIGHTS HE DIDN'T MAKE IT HOME BEFORE THE SUN CAME UP.


YOUR MOTHER DID THE BEST SHE COULD. SHE LOVED YOUR FATHER, ALWAYS DID. SHE TRIED TO KEEP IT TOGETHER.
EVENTUALLY SHE STRAYED...

HIS NAME WAS NATHAN SINGLETON. HE WAS A FRIENDLY COMPETITOR WITH YOUR FATHER. NECK AND NECK IN MARKET SHARE--SINGLETON'S COMPANY WAS THE SINGLE GREATEST THREAT TO HAMPTON INDUSTRIES.
BUT THAT'S NOT WHY REBECCA DID IT. THERE WAS NOTHING MALICIOUS ABOUT IT. SHE LOVED YOUR FATHER--HE MEANT THE WORLD TO HER.

SHE WAS JUST LONELY. VERY LONELY.
WHEN PEOPLE GET THAT LONELY, THEY SOMETIMES GET DESPERATE... DESPERATE FOR ANY KIND OF HUMAN CONTACT.
NATHAN SINGLETON WAS VERY KIND.

THINGS CAME OUT IN CONVERSATION, PLANS FOR THE FUTURE OF HAMPTON INDUSTRIES... PLANS THAT NATHAN SINGLETON SHOULD NEVER HAVE KNOWN.
IT ALMOST RUINED YOUR FATHER--BUT THAT WASN'T THE PART HE WAS UPSET ABOUT... IT WAS THE BETRAYAL THAT HURT HIM THE MOST.
YOUR FATHER WAS DEVASTATED.
THE TRIP TO MONTANA WAS AN ATTEMPT TO RECONNECT. YOUR FATHER FORGAVE YOUR MOTHER--THEY DECIDED TO TRY AND STAY TOGETHER.
AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED THERE--I THINK YOUR MOTHER'S PAST TRANSGRESSIONS WERE THE LEAST OF THEIR WORRIES.
YOUR FATHER IS A KIND SOUL--I THINK ALL HE'S EVER REALLY WANTED TO DO IS HELP PEOPLE.
THINK ABOUT IT, HE WAS CURSED WITH THE TERRIBLE BURDEN OF BECOMING THAT MONSTER--OF LOSING HIS HUMANITY.
THE FIRST THING HE THOUGHT TO DO WAS USE THIS CURSE TO HELP OTHERS.
MAYBE THAT WAS THE FLAW THAT RUINED EVERYTHING. MAYBE HIS DESIRE TO HELP OTHERS BLINDED HIM TO THE VERY REAL DANGERS OF HIS SITUATION.
I DON'T KNOW--BUT I DO KNOW THAT YOUR FATHER SAVED MANY, MANY LIVES, MINE INCLUDED, BEFORE HE EVER BECAME A SUPERHERO.


I DON'T CARE WHAT WE SAW--YOUR FATHER WAS A GREAT MAN. I CAN'T BELIEVE HE MURDERED YOUR MOTHER.
I CAN'T.
THAT'S THE DISCONNECT, THAT'S WHERE EVERYTHING FALLS APART, DUNFORD. I AGREE WITH YOU.
MY FATHER DIDN'T KILL MY MOTHER.
THE TWISTED, INHUMAN BEAST MY FATHER BECAME KILLED MY MOTHER. THAT'S WHO I HATE--THAT'S WHO I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT.
I'VE MOURNED THE PASSING OF MY FATHER EVERY BIT AS MUCH AS MY MOTHER.
I DO NOT HAVE A FATHER.
Ring! Ring!
HELLO?
YES. UM, YES.
MY WORD. OKAY.
YES, I'LL TELL HER. THANKS.
THANKS FOR CALLING.
...
WHATEVER HE IS NOW--THE POLICE HAVE HIM IN CUSTODY.
YOUR FATHER HAS BEEN ARRESTED.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE BUT I LOST TRACK OF TIME.
IF I'D BEEN OUT OF THERE BEFORE SUNRISE...
LIKE I SAID... STUPID.
LIKE YOU SAID...
THAT IT THEN? CAME HERE FOR THAT?
I CAME HERE TO WARN YOU...
TO TELL YOU YOU'RE STUPID.
I COULD KEEP THEM AWAY FROM YOUR "SECRET UNDERGROUND LAIR" BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO VISIT THE CEMETERY.
YOU MIGHT AS WELL HAVE JUST TURNED YOURSELF IN.

I CAN'T HELP YOU ANYMORE. NOT IN ANY KIND OF REAL WAY. I'M VERY SORRY, I DO BELIEVE YOU--BUT THIS IS OUT OF MY HANDS. THE PUBLIC CATCHES WIND OF YOU OUT SCOTT FREE AND I'M SCREWED. THAT'S HEAT I DON'T NEED.
ANYTHING OPENS UP ON MY END, ANY WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY I FIND--AND I'LL USE IT... BUT UNTIL THEN, MY HANDS ARE TIED.
SO YOU HAVE TO HANDLE THIS ON YOUR OWN.
FINE. I WILL HIRE THE BEST LAWYER I CAN. I'LL TELL THEM THE TRUTH AND LET THEM DECIDE IF THAT WILL HELP ME IN COURT.
I KNOW I DIDN'T KILL MY WIFE--BUT I DID BRING THE CRAZY SON OF A BITCH WHO DID INTO HER LIFE. I'M NOT WITHOUT BLAME, NOT ABOVE PUNISHMENT.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE GETS TO WALK. WILL YOU HELP ME AT ALL BY LOOKING FOR HIM?
THAT MUCH I CAN DO, YES. I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO LOCATE THIS ZECHARIAH PERSON YOU'VE MENTIONED.
I PROMISE.
ANY IDEA WHAT THE HELL THIS THING IS OR WHAT IT DOES?
THAT'S NEW, A RESTRAINING COLLAR, SOMETHING THEY'RE HOPING WILL BLOCK YOUR ABILITY TO TRANSFORM INTO WOLF-MAN.
DO YOURSELF A FAVOR AND JUST DON'T TEST IT. IF YOU TRY TO ESCAPE YOU'LL JUST LOOK GUILTY.
YOU JUST SIT BACK AND LET ME SEE IF I CAN FIND THIS GUY. THIS IS OUT OF YOUR HANDS AT THIS POINT.
JUST TRUST ME.
LIKE I HAVE ANY OTHER OPTIONS...

POLICE

SCHINKEL

HAMPTON TRIAL

The New Tribune

Wolf-Man: GUILTY!

WELL, THE TRIAL IS OVER--I THOUGHT IT WOULD NEVER END.

IT'S NOT *FAIR!* NOW IT WILL BE TWICE AS HARD TO GET TO HIM!

FRET NOT, CHLOE, DEAR. HE'S NOT OUT OF REACH--STRONGHOLD PENITENTIARY IS NOT THE MOST SECURE FACILITY--THERE ARE *FREQUENT* ESCAPES.

SLOSH

GOOD, YOUR SKILLS HAVE GROWN TEN-FOLD IN THESE LAST FEW MONTHS--*VERY* IMPRESSIVE.

SHIIING!

WROKK

ARE YOU OKAY, DEAR?

I WANT HIM OUT OF THERE. I WANT YOU TO BREAK MY FATHER FREE FROM HIS PRISON...

...SO I CAN KILL HIM MYSELF!

THIS WORKOUT'S GETTING TO BE TOO MUCH FOR YOU--YOU'RE USUALLY FASTER. YOU SHOULDN'T BE GETTING TIRED SO EASILY.

COME HERE.

THERE.
ALL BETTER.

THE ASTOUNDING
WOLF-MAN
14
$2.99
ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD
FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN

ROBERT KIRKMAN writer
JASON HOWARD penciler, inker
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AUBREY SITTERSON editor

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JUST OUTSIDE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS--ABOUT A MILE AWAY FROM STRONGHOLD PENITENTIARY.
STRONGHOLD
PENITENTIARY
UH, IS THAT...?
YES. IT'S HIM. HE'S ACTING LIKE WE'RE NOT HERE.
TRYING TO ACT LIKE HE'S NOT SCARED.
INMATE
THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN IS GOING TO BE LOCKED UP WITH ALL THE REST OF US?
LOCKED AWAY WITH VILLAINS HE PUT AWAY?
THIS SHOULD BE INTERESTING.

STRONGHOLD PENITENTIARY.
C'MON.
EVEN THE NORMAL PRISONERS HATE YOU.
YOU WON'T LAST LONG.

OPEN.
THIS WAY.
I BET YOU WOULDN'T MAKE IT TO YOUR CELL! THAT'S A BET I AIN'T LOSING!
UFF!
SHINK!
...
STAND DOWN, PRISONER!

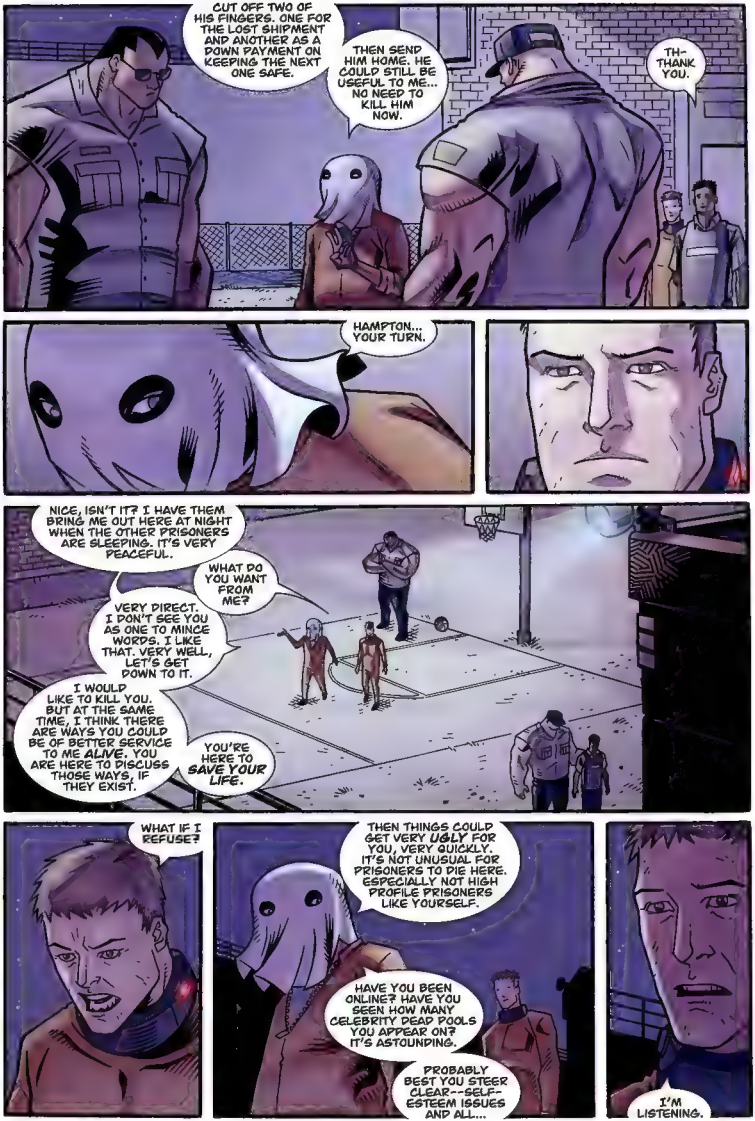
YEAAGH!
SWOOSH!
BZZZKT!
BZZZKT!
OH, GOD... HE...
I DIDN'T MEAN FOR...

GUYS, I'M SORRY... I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS GOING TO ATTACK ME.
THE GUARD JUMPED IN THE WAY--I COULDN'T HAVE--
HIS NAME WAS BRAD.
I'M SO--
BZZZZCKTT!
NNNGG.
BZZZCKTT!
BZZZCKTT!
KUROKK!
YOU WIFE-KILLING SON OF A BITCH!
YOU HADN'T GOT PUT IN HERE-- BRAD WOULD STILL BE ALIVE!

WHUMP!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU LOOKING AT?!
STOP---YOU'LL KILL HIM. YOU KNOW WE CAN'T KILL HIM.
BUT--- URGH!
I HOPE YOU ROT IN HERE!

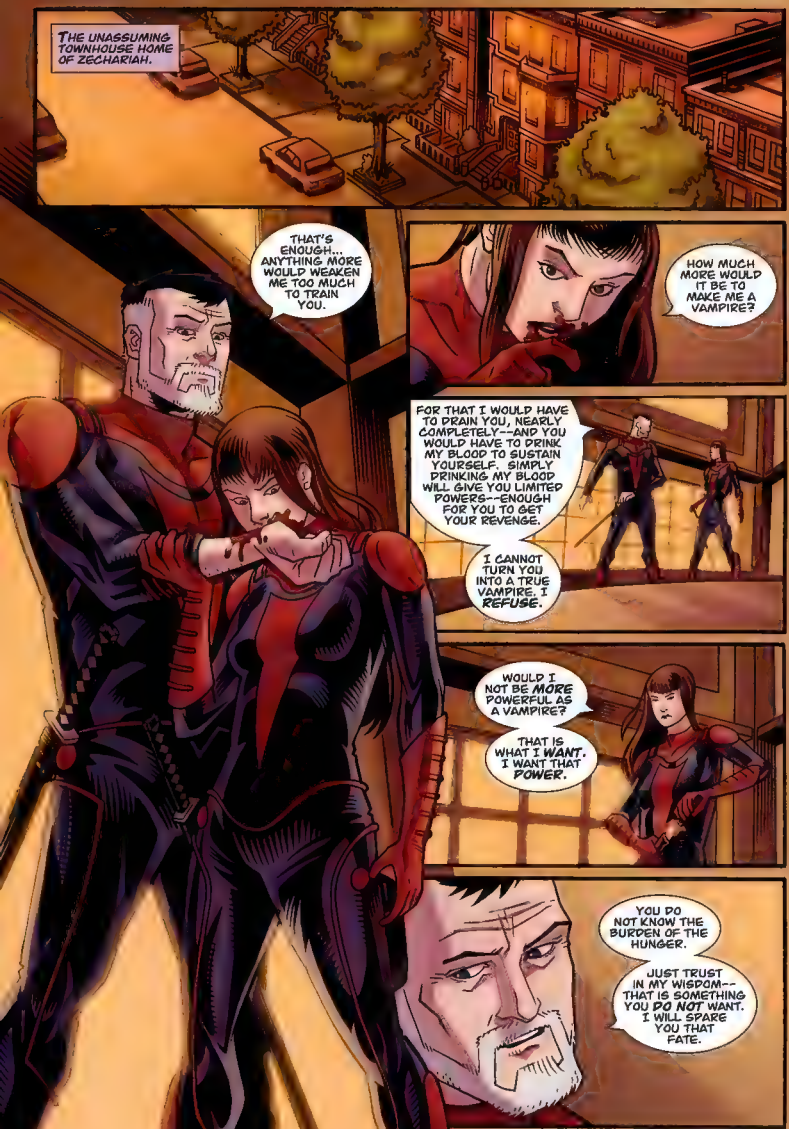
IF YOU'RE HERE TO BEAT ON ME AGAIN-- I'D THINK TWICE. I KNOW SOME PEOPLE IN HIGH PLACES AND I ALREADY PLAN ON TALKING TO THEM.
I WOULDN'T DO THAT IF I WERE YOU. ANYTHING YOU REPORT COULD JUST MAKE THINGS WORSE FOR YOU HERE. THIS PLACE CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS.
YOU'RE CLASSIFIED AS SUPERHUMAN. GUARDS CAN GET AWAY WITH A LOT WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR KIND. THE TOP BRASS TURNS A BLIND EYE TO ANYTHING THAT KEEPS YOU IN LINE.
ALSO, THE WARDEN DOESN'T HAVE A LOT OF PULL HERE. HE COULDN'T HELP YOU. HE BARELY RUNS THE PLACE. I'VE BEEN SENT TO TAKE YOU TO THE MAN WHO DOES.
I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT THE WARDEN.
HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN IN HERE?
THREE DAYS.
C'MON.

BRING HIM TO ME.
YOU'VE DONE WELL, ANDERSON.
THANK YOU, SIR.
IT IS AN HONOR TO MEET YOU, MISTER HAMPTON. ALTHOUGH, I DO HAVE TO APOLOGIZE, THERE'S ANOTHER MATTER I MUST TAKE CARE OF BEFORE I GET TO YOU.
ANDERSON, STEP FORWARD.
YES, SIR.
YOU DID WELL GETTING HAMPTON HERE WITHOUT BEING SEEN--BUT YOU DIDN'T DO WELL THIS MORNING. WERE YOU AWARE THAT MY SHIPMENT WAS CONFISCATED?
YES, SIR.
THEN I'M SURE, KNOWING THAT, YOU HAD AN INKLING THAT I SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED YOU TO BRING ME THIS FINE GENTLEMAN FOR A REASON--AND WERE PROBABLY MORE CAREFUL BECAUSE OF THAT.
SMART MAN.
SMART IS VERY RARE AROUND HERE... AND VERY USEFUL.
HMMM.


CUT OFF TWO OF HIS FINGERS. ONE FOR THE LOST SHIPMENT AND ANOTHER AS A DOWN PAYMENT ON KEEPING THE NEXT ONE SAFE.
THEN SEND HIM HOME. HE COULD STILL BE USEFUL TO ME... NO NEED TO KILL HIM NOW.
TH-THANK YOU.
HAMPTON... YOUR TURN.
NICE, ISN'T IT? I HAVE THEM BRING ME OUT HERE AT NIGHT WHEN THE OTHER PRISONERS ARE SLEEPING. IT'S VERY PEACEFUL.
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
VERY DIRECT. I DON'T SEE YOU AS ONE TO MINCE WORDS. I LIKE THAT. VERY WELL, LET'S GET DOWN TO IT.
I WOULD LIKE TO KILL YOU. BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I THINK THERE ARE WAYS YOU COULD BE OF BETTER SERVICE TO ME ALIVE. YOU ARE HERE TO DISCUSS THOSE WAYS, IF THEY EXIST.
YOU'RE HERE TO SAVE YOUR LIFE.
WHAT IF I REFUSE?
THEN THINGS COULD GET VERY UGLY FOR YOU, VERY QUICKLY. IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR PRISONERS TO DIE HERE. ESPECIALLY NOT HIGH PROFILE PRISONERS LIKE YOURSELF.
HAVE YOU BEEN ONLINE? HAVE YOU SEEN HOW MANY CELEBRITY DEAD POOLS YOU APPEAR ON? IT'S ASTOUNDING.
PROBABLY BEST YOU STEER CLEAR--SELF-ESTEEM ISSUES AND ALL...
I'M LISTENING.

YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ME DO THIS *FOR* YOU? YOU LOSE POINTS IF I HAVE TO DO ALL THE TALKING.
...
VERY WELL.
IT'S NICE IN HERE, I'M AFFORDED A CERTAIN LEVEL OF... COMFORT, BECAUSE OF MY STATUS ON THE OUTSIDE... BUT I DO NOT WISH TO STAY HERE FOREVER.
YOUR HELP IN FACILITATING MY ESCAPE WOULD BE APPRECIATED BUT IS NOT NECESSARY. I AM WORKING ON A FEW POSSIBLE MEANS OF ESCAPE, I'M CONFIDENT ONE OF THEM WILL WORK.
A MAN WITH YOUR LEVEL OF BUSINESS SUCCESS MUST HAVE *COUNTLESS* OVERSEAS CONTACTS. CONTACTS YOU CAN USE TO GET ME SAFELY OUT OF THE COUNTRY--TO A COMFORTABLE *STRIKING DISTANCE*.
NO, WHAT I NEED YOU FOR IS HELP ON THE OUTSIDE. I, OF COURSE, HAVE RESOURCES OF MY OWN, BUT IN MY PRESENT STATE OF INCARCERATION THE MAJORITY OF THEM ARE *CLOSED* TO ME AT THE MOMENT.
I HAVE BIG PLANS... THERE ARE A LOT OF VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE OUT THERE I'D LIKE TO PISS OFF. BUT I CAN'T DO THAT IF I'M BEING PURSUED BY THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW.

THIS COUNTRY HAS BEEN ON AUTO-PILOT FOR FAR TOO LONG. PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO BREED INDISCRIMINATELY... RESULTING IN A SLOWER, UGLIER, STUPIDER COUNTRY.
I PLAN TO CHANGE ALL THAT. I'M GOING TO TRIM THE FAT, SO TO SPEAK... I PLAN TO BRING ABOUT A LEANER, STRONGER COUNTRY-- ONE MORE EQUIPPED TO THRIVE IN THIS NEW WORLD WE'RE ENTERING.
I JUST NEED A LITTLE TIME TO SET MY PLAN INTO MOTION. OTHERS MAY NOT SEE IT THIS WAY... BUT I'M GOING TO SAVE THE WORLD, GARY HAMPTON.
IF YOU'RE WONDERING, I FEEL COMPLETELY SECURE IN TELLING YOU ALL THIS BECAUSE I'M CERTAIN THAT IF YOU DON'T SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO ME RIGHT NOW... YOU WON'T SURVIVE TWO MORE DAYS.
THE GUARDS HATE YOU AS MUCH AS THE PRISONERS. I'D BE SURPRISED IF YOU MADE IT TO THE MORNING.
I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES.
WHAT WAS THAT?
YOU HEARD ME.
NOW TAKE ME BACK INSIDE.


THE UNASSUMING TOWNHOUSE HOME OF ZECHARIAH.
THAT'S ENOUGH... ANYTHING MORE WOULD WEAKEN ME TOO MUCH TO TRAIN YOU.
HOW MUCH MORE WOULD IT BE TO MAKE ME A VAMPIRE?
FOR THAT I WOULD HAVE TO DRAIN YOU, NEARLY COMPLETELY--AND YOU WOULD HAVE TO DRINK MY BLOOD TO SUSTAIN YOURSELF. SIMPLY DRINKING MY BLOOD WILL GIVE YOU LIMITED POWERS--ENOUGH FOR YOU TO GET YOUR REVENGE.
I CANNOT TURN YOU INTO A TRUE VAMPIRE. I REFUSE.
WOULD I NOT BE MORE POWERFUL AS A VAMPIRE?
THAT IS WHAT I WANT. I WANT THAT POWER.
YOU DO NOT KNOW THE BURDEN OF THE HUNGER.
JUST TRUST IN MY WISDOM--THAT IS SOMETHING YOU DO NOT WANT. I WILL SPARE YOU THAT FATE.

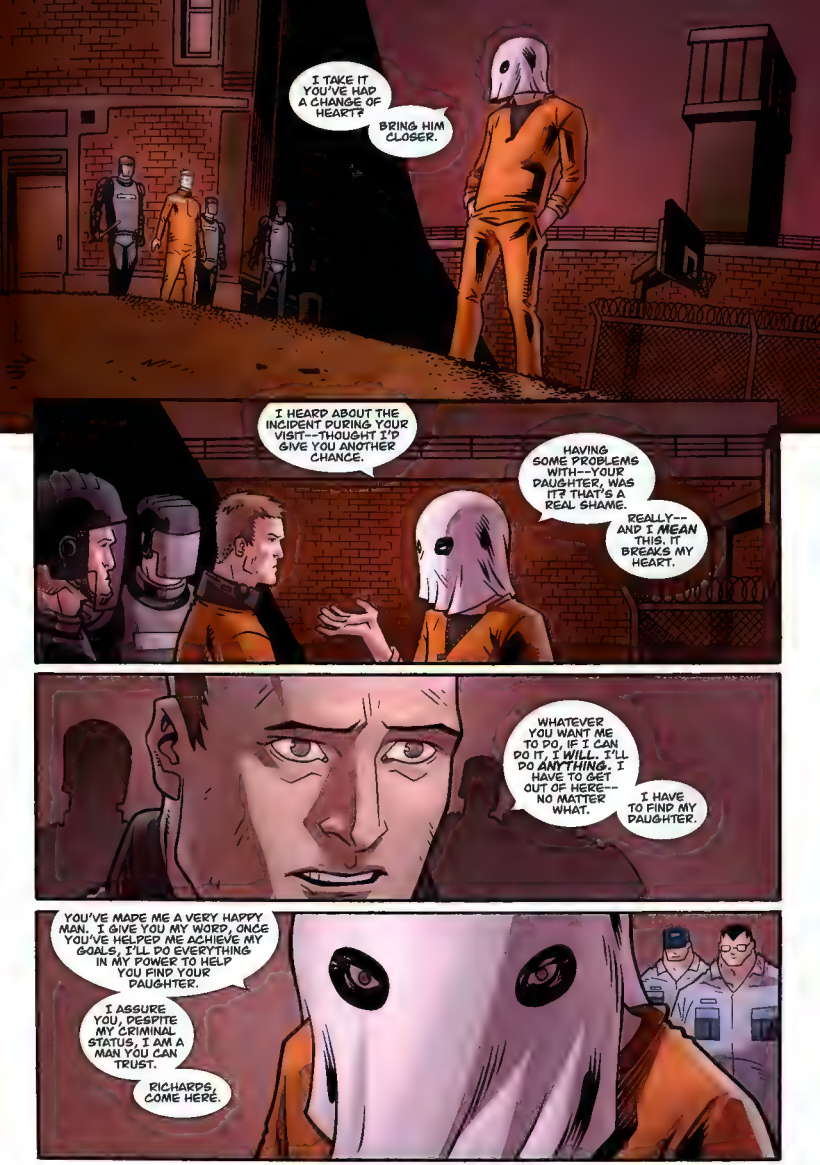
SPLANG!
WHAT IF I GIVE YOU NO CHOICE?!
DEAR CHILD. I HAVE GROWN FOND OF YOU DURING OUR TIME TOGETHER... BUT NOT THAT FOND.
DO NOT FORGET YOUR PLACE.

STRONGHOLD PENITENTIARY.
TEN MINUTES.
I'LL BE JUST OUTSIDE. DON'T MAKE ME HAVE TO COME IN BEFORE TIME'S UP.
NICE GUY.
HOW ARE YOU HOLDING IT TOGETHER, GARY?
NEVER MIND ME. HOW IS CHLOE?
...
GARY... SHE'S GONE.
WHAT?!

AFTER YOUR CONVICTION, SHE... SHE DISAPPEARED. I TRIED TO CONTACT YOU SOONER BUT THEY WOULDN'T ALLOW ME TO VISIT BEFORE NOW.
I'VE HIRED PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS, THE POLICE ARE INVOLVED. NOBODY CAN FIND HER. WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.
ANY FRIENDS SHE HAD AT SCHOOL--SHE STOPPED TALKING TO LONG AGO. NOBODY KNOWS WHERE SHE COULD BE.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO WORRY--I'LL KEEP LOOKING FOR HER.
KEEP LOOKING FOR HER--AND FIND HER. I CAN'T STRESS THIS ENOUGH--I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE MONEY, SPEND IT ALL--HIRE EVERYONE. YOU HAVE TO FIND CHLOE, DUNFORD.
I TRUSTED YOU--I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF HER.
SIR, I ASSURE YOU I TRIED MY--
STOP MAKING EXCUSES AND FIND MY DAUGHTER!
DAMMIT! STAND UP, RIGHT NOW--GO OUT--AND FIND HER!
OKAY, BUDDY--THAT'S ENOUGH!
FIND HER!
FIND MY LITTLE GIRL!

WHEN?!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE CAN'T STORM THE PRISON AND KILL HIM RIGHT NOW!
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?! I'M READY.
I ASSURE YOU--YOU ARE NOT.
YOU'RE BEGINNING TO TRY MY PATIENCE, CHILD.
I'M SORRY, ZECHARIAH.
I JUST CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HOW MY MOTHER IS DEAD--AND HE'S STILL OUT THERE. IT WAS EASIER TO WAIT WHEN I DIDN'T KNOW EXACTLY WHERE HE WAS.
BUT WE DO NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHERE YOUR FATHER IS. STRONGHOLD PENITENTIARY IS A BIG PLACE--HE COULD BE ANYWHERE WITHIN THOSE WALLS--AND HE'S NOT ALONE.
THERE WILL BE MUCH TO CONTEND WITH IF WE ARE TO SET YOUR FATHER FREE IN ORDER TO KILL HIM. THERE ARE GUARDS, OTHER PRISONERS--THE ACT WILL BE ALL-CONSUMING--A MASSIVE ORDEAL.
BUT DON'T WORRY, CHLOE...
...I HAVE A PLAN.

KLINK...
THE FACE IS GIVING YOU ONE LAST CHANCE.
YOU GOING TO ACCEPT HIS OFFER--OR DO WE GET TO HAVE OUR FUN?
TAKE ME TO HIM.


I TAKE IT YOU'VE HAD A CHANGE OF HEART?
BRING HIM CLOSER.
I HEARD ABOUT THE INCIDENT DURING YOUR VISIT--THOUGHT I'D GIVE YOU ANOTHER CHANCE.
HAVING SOME PROBLEMS WITH--YOUR DAUGHTER, WAS IT? THAT'S A REAL SHAME.
REALLY--AND I MEAN THIS. IT BREAKS MY HEART.
WHATEVER YOU WANT ME TO DO, IF I CAN DO IT, I WILL. I'LL DO ANYTHING. I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE--NO MATTER WHAT.
I HAVE TO FIND MY DAUGHTER.
YOU'VE MADE ME A VERY HAPPY MAN. I GIVE YOU MY WORD, ONCE YOU'VE HELPED ME ACHIEVE MY GOALS, I'LL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR DAUGHTER.
I ASSURE YOU, DESPITE MY CRIMINAL STATUS, I AM A MAN YOU CAN TRUST.
RICHARDS, COME HERE.

YES, BOSS?
REMOVE HIS COLLAR AND DEACTIVATE IT.
WHAT USE IS HAVING A WEREWOLF IF HE'S STUCK IN THIS BORING STATE ALL THE TIME?
YES, SIR.
TEK.
IT'LL BE GOOD TO HAVE THIS THING---
HURKK!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
I DON'T KNOW!
HURRGH!
GURRRAAGGHH!!

ROOAARGGH!

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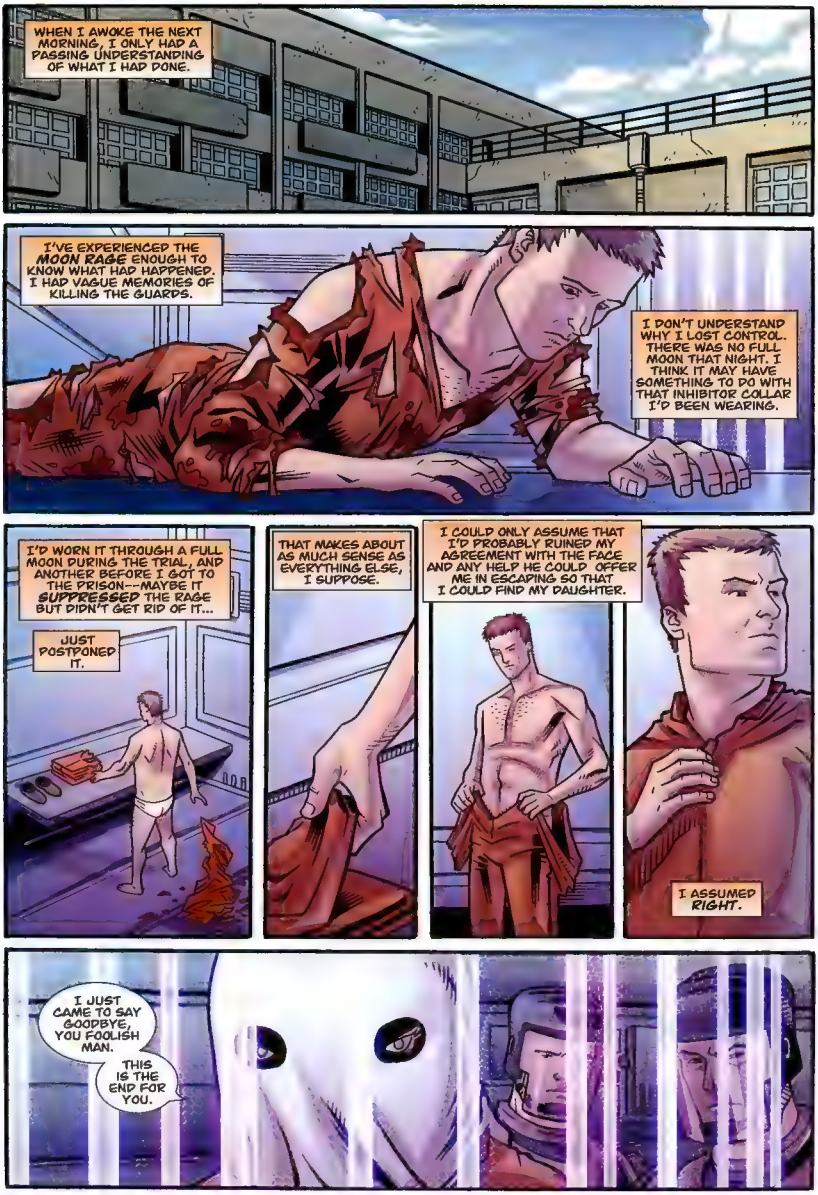
GRAAGH!
SWOOSH!
WHUMP!
WRAMM!
KRAOOM!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! I OFFERED TO WORK WITH YOU--TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR DAUGHTER-- THIS IS HOW YOU REPAY ME?!
THE SECOND I HAVE YOUR POWER-INHIBITING COLLAR REMOVED YOU TURN ON ME?!
LET ME GIVE YOU A LITTLE TIP...

NOBODY SCREWS WITH THE FACE!
ROARRGH!
THWOOM

KRAKOOM!
DID YOU THINK I WAS HELPLESS? HOW DO YOU THINK IT IS THAT I HAVE SO MUCH CONTROL HERE?
I RULE BY FEAR, BUT YOU KNOW THAT NOW, DON'T Y—?!
GRARRGH!
I GUESS NOT.
THWOOM!
TIME FOR ANOTHER LESSON.
WRAMMA!!

BOOM!
RRRGH!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?!
RARGH!
HE'S NOT LETTING UP, BOYS! TAKE HIM DOWN!
THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE, FACE! I GIVE YOU A CERTAIN LEVEL OF FREEDOM WITHIN THE WALLS BECAUSE IT HELPS ME KEEP THE PEACE.
DOES THIS SEEM PEACEFUL?!
SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENS AGAIN AND YOUR PRIVILEGES WILL BE REVOKED. THIS IS YOUR LAST WARNING!
BZZHT!

GRRGGH!
BZZKT!
BZZKCH!
BZZKT!
BZZKT!
YOU GIVE ME A CERTAIN LEVEL OF FREEDOM HERE BECAUSE I KNOW WHERE THE BODIES ARE BURIED, YOU CORRUPT WASTE OF HUMAN SKIN.
I DON'T KNOW HOW THIS SLIP UP HAS GIVEN YOU THE NERVE TO TALK TO ME THIS WAY--BUT I SUGGEST YOU TAKE NOTICE OF THE FACT THAT YOUR GUARDS LISTEN TO MY ORDERS AS MUCH AS THEY DO YOURS.
DON'T MAKE ME TEST THEIR LOYALTY.
THIS SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL, WARDEN.
TAKE HIM TO HIS CELL.


WHEN I AWOKE THE NEXT MORNING, I ONLY HAD A PASSING UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT I HAD DONE.
I'VE EXPERIENCED THE MOON RAGE ENOUGH TO KNOW WHAT HAD HAPPENED. I HAD VAGUE MEMORIES OF KILLING THE GUARDS.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I LOST CONTROL. THERE WAS NO FULL MOON THAT NIGHT. I THINK IT MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT INHIBITOR COLLAR I'D BEEN WEARING.
I'D WORN IT THROUGH A FULL MOON DURING THE TRIAL, AND ANOTHER BEFORE I GOT TO THE PRISON--MAYBE IT SUPPRESSED THE RAGE BUT DIDN'T GET RID OF IT...
JUST POSTPONED IT.
THAT MAKES ABOUT AS MUCH SENSE AS EVERYTHING ELSE, I SUPPOSE.
I COULD ONLY ASSUME THAT I'D PROBABLY RUINED MY AGREEMENT WITH THE FACE AND ANY HELP HE COULD OFFER ME IN ESCAPING SO THAT I COULD FIND MY DAUGHTER.
I ASSUMED RIGHT.
I JUST CAME TO SAY GOODBYE, YOU FOOLISH MAN.
THIS IS THE END FOR YOU.

I EXPLAINED EVERYTHING TO HIM. THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON--HOW IT AFFECTS ME. THE COLLAR.. WHAT I THOUGHT HAD HAPPENED.
I TRIED TO ASSURE HIM THAT I WAS COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL DURING THOSE TIMES.
MY DAUGHTER IS MISSING. I WOULDN'T JEOPARDIZE FINDING HER TO, WHAT--INSTIGATE YOU MURDERING ME?
I'M NOT CRAZY. I HAD NO REASON TO ATTACK YOU.
I THINK HE BELIEVED ME.
WHAT DO I DO WHEN WE'RE ON THE RUN--WHEN YOU'RE GETTING ME OUT OF THE COUNTRY?
THIS MAKES YOU USELESS TO ME. YOU COULD RUIN MY PLANS--YOU'RE A LIABILITY.
IT'S THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON. ONE NIGHT A MONTH... I CAN LOCK MYSELF AWAY FOR THAT TIME.
AND I'VE GOT AT LEAST A FEW WEEKS TO PROVE HOW USEFUL I CAN BE OTHERWISE.
OKAY... FOR NOW. WE'LL TALK SPECIFICS LATER.
STAY ALERT.
AND JUST LIKE THAT, I WAS BACK IN. IT MAKES ME THINK THE FACE IS MORE DESPERATE THAN HE LETS ON.
OF COURSE--IT WASN'T LONG AFTER OUR MEETING THAT EVERYTHING WENT TO HELL.

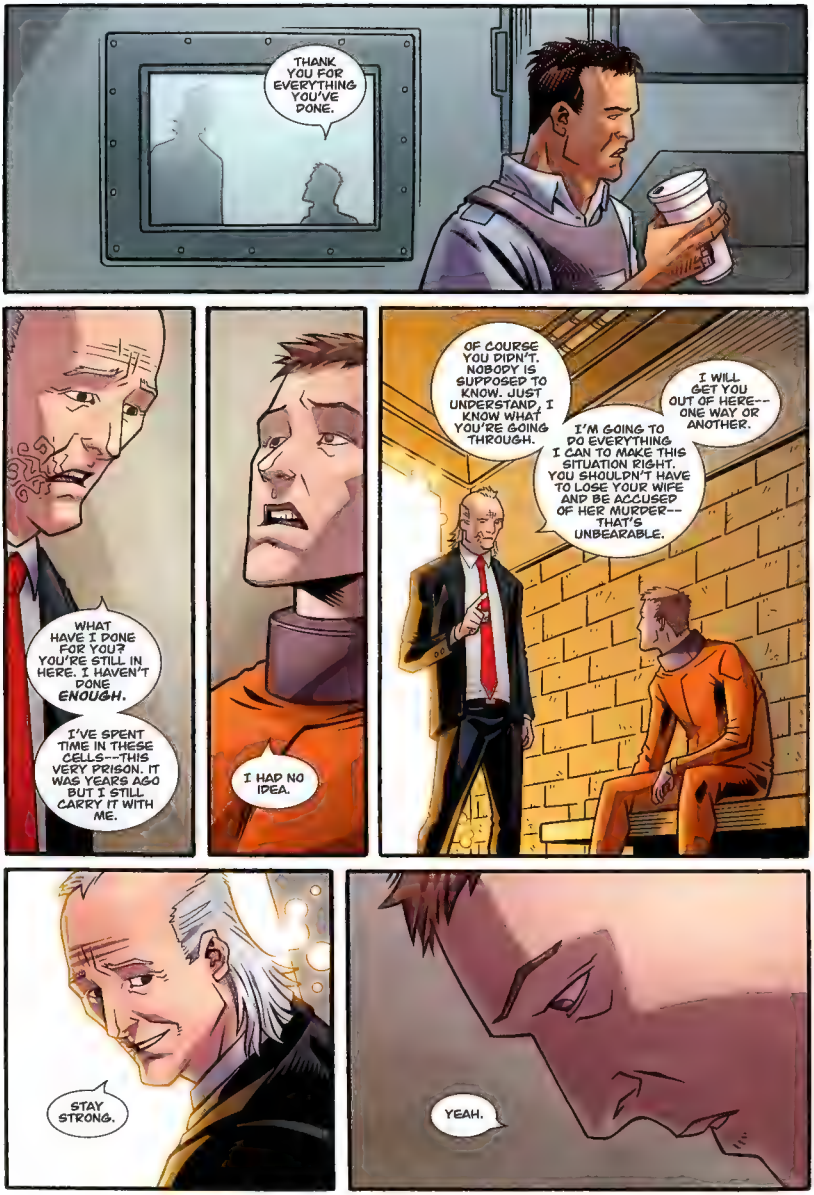
ALTERNATE DIMENSION EVIL VERSIONS OF INVINCIBLE, YOU SAY?* THAT GUY JUST CAN'T CATCH A BREAK, HUH?
WRA-KOOM!
*SEE INVINCIBLE ISSUE 60 FOR THE FULL STORY!

IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR THE ATTACK TO REACH THE SECTION OF THE PRISON I WAS IN.
KROOM!!
AT FIRST, I HAD NO IDEA WHAT WAS GOING ON.
MY DAUGHTER WAS MISSING, I SAW AN OPENING AND I TOOK IT.
WHEN I SAW HIM, I HAVE TO ADMIT, MY FIRST THOUGHT WAS TO LET HIM GO--MAYBE I'D BE ABLE TO MAKE MY ESCAPE WHILE SOMEONE WAS TRYING TO CAPTURE HIM.
BUT I COULDN'T LIVE WITH MYSELF IF HE KILLED AGAIN AND I KNEW IT WAS MY FAULT. I HAD TO STOP HIM.
LUCKY FOR ME, THE ATTACK HAD GONE ON WELL INTO THE NIGHT.

YOU FOOL! YOU SHOULD BE RUNNING WITH US-- WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN US-- WIFE-KILLER!
WHAT'S THE DEAL-- YOU LIKE IT IN HERE?!
YOU'RE IN HERE FOR A REASON, THRILL-KILL. IF KEEPING YOU INSIDE MEANS I STAY TOO-- SO BE IT!
SVASSH!
WROKK!
YOU!
GET BACK HERE!
BZZZACK!!
NOT YOU OR ANYBODY ELSE IS GOING TO KEEP ME IN HERE.
SOON, INVINCIBLE...
BUT NOT TODAY.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHO HE WAS BUT HE KNOCKED ME OUT INSTANTLY. I WASN'T EVEN SURE HE'D ESCAPED UNTIL YOU TOLD ME THEY CAUGHT HIM. * POWERPLEX IS ABOUT THE OPPOSITE NAME I'VE HEARD ONE OF THESE GUYS PICK YET.
*SEE INVINCIBLE 61 FOR DETAILS.
I'VE BEEN SPENDING A LOT OF TIME UNCONSCIOUS LATELY...

THE PRISON SUSTAINED VERY LITTLE DAMAGE, CONSIDERING WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME ABOUT THE REST OF THE WORLD.
ONLY ONE SECTION OF THE PRISON WAS DAMAGED TO THE POINT THAT PRISONERS COULDN'T BE HOUSED THERE.
THOSE OF US WHO DIDN'T ESCAPE WERE SIMPLY TRANSFERRED TO DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE PRISON.
THE FACE SURVIVED THE ATTACK. HE CAME TO GIVE ME AN UPDATE.
THERE WERE A FEW SETBACKS DUE TO THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE PRISON AND CERTAIN PRISONERS BEING MOVED AROUND--BUT I'M COMPENSATING FOR ALL THAT.
AS SOON AS I'VE GOT THINGS SQUARED AWAY--I'LL GIVE YOU DETAILS. BUT WE'LL BE OUT OF HERE SOON, AND THEN THE BALL'S IN *YOUR* COURT.
THAT WAS EARLIER TODAY. THE PLAN IS, HE GETS US OUT OF HERE--I SOMEHOW GET HIM OUT OF THE COUNTRY... AND THEN HE LAUNCHES SOME KIND OF MASSIVE ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES.
HE HASN'T TOLD ME ANYTHING PAST THAT.
UH...
IS HE ALMOST THROUGH?

YOU ABOUT FINISHED THERE, PAL?
YEP. ALL DONE.
GOOD. THAT WILL BE ALL.
ANYONE CHECKS THAT THING OUT--IT'LL TELL THEM IT'S WORKING... BUT IT'S NOT. YOU'VE GOT FULL CONTROL OF YOUR POWERS.
DON'T DO ANYTHING TO MAKE ME REGRET THIS.
OKAY, SO THE PLAN IS YOU JUST SIT TIGHT. I APPRECIATE YOU BRINGING THIS INFORMATION TO ME. I'M STILL DOING EVERYTHING I CAN TO CLEAR YOUR NAME AND I'VE GOT A TEAM WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK TO FIND YOUR DAUGHTER.
YOU SHOULD KNOW HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE YOUR HELP ON THIS.
THE FACE IS NO JOKE. HE'S A MEMBER OF THE NOW DEFUNCT CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS THE BODY, BUT BEFORE THESE GUYS WERE PUSHED OUT OF POWER--THEY WERE UNTOUCHABLE.
AND THE FACE WAS THE LAST ONE TO FALL--BY FAR THE MOST DANGEROUS OF THE GROUP. IF HE'S PLANNING AN ATTACK--I CHOOSE NOT TO TAKE IT LIGHTLY.
I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO STOP HIM.
HOW WILL I REPORT ANYTHING TO YOU WHEN I GET MORE INFORMATION?
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON HAND THAT I'M CONFIDENT COULDN'T BE FOUND BY THE FACE OR SOMEONE WORKING FOR HIM. THEY'RE VERY ADVANCED.
I'LL BE MONITORING YOU BY SATELLITE WHEN YOU ESCAPE.


THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE.
WHAT HAVE I DONE FOR YOU? YOU'RE STILL IN HERE. I HAVEN'T DONE ENOUGH.
I'VE SPENT TIME IN THESE CELLS---THIS VERY PRISON. IT WAS YEARS AGO BUT I STILL CARRY IT WITH ME.
I HAD NO IDEA.
OF COURSE YOU DIDN'T. NOBODY IS SUPPOSED TO KNOW. JUST UNDERSTAND, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH.
I'M GOING TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO MAKE THIS SITUATION RIGHT. YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO LOSE YOUR WIFE AND BE ACCUSED OF HER MURDER--- THAT'S UNBEARABLE.
I WILL GET YOU OUT OF HERE--- ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
STAY STRONG.
YEAH.

BACK AT ZECHARIAH'S TOWNHOUSE.
IT'S EMPTY. EVERYONE IS GONE.
GOOD.
MOMMY, PLEASE DON'T--

STRONGHOLD PENITENTIARY.
CHOON
RUUUUUMMMBLE!!
KROOM!!
GOOM!!
--THE HELL?!

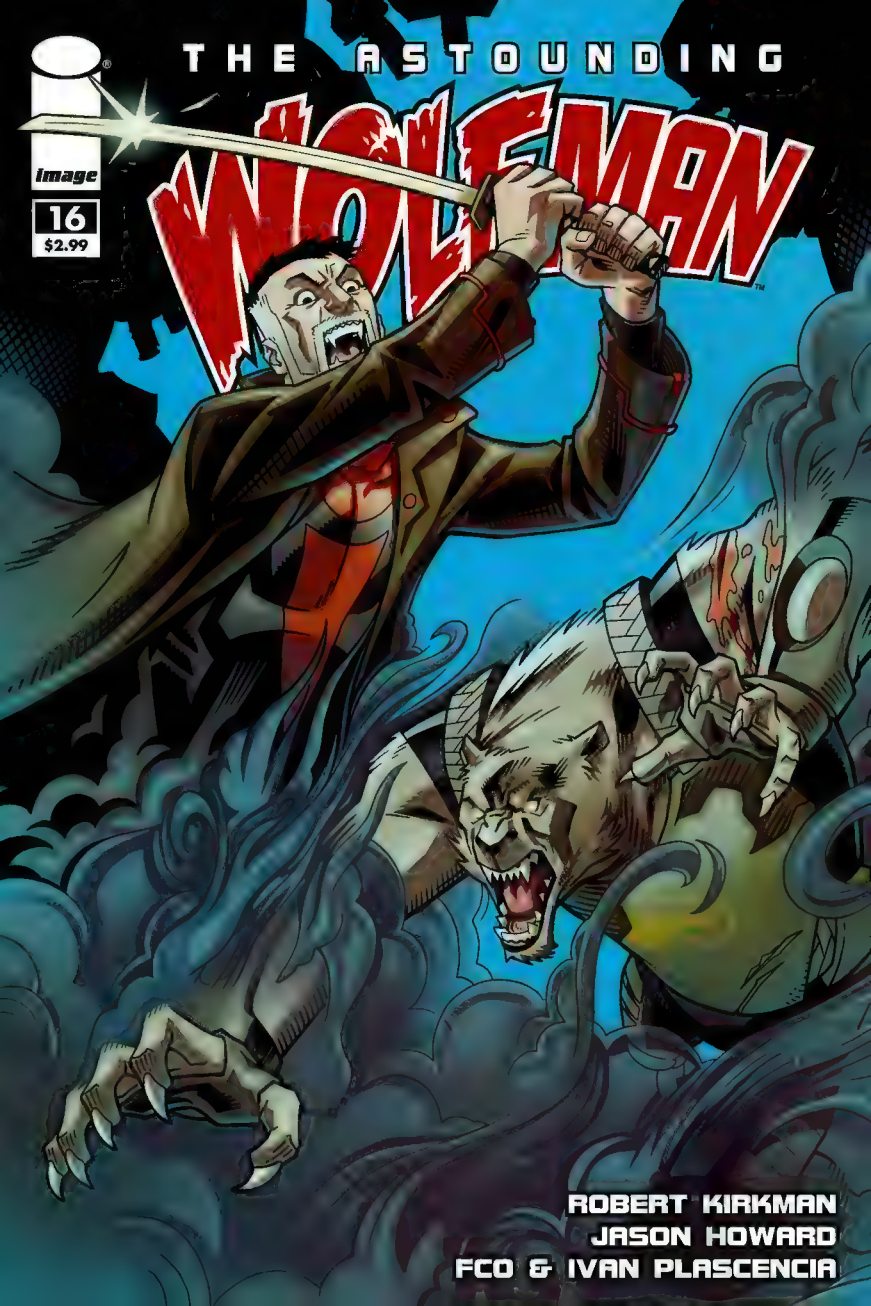
ВРЯЯЯ

:KOFF!:
:KOFF!:
--IRK!
HRM.
WHUMP!
HE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME...

KROOM!!
I WILL FIND THE ONE WE SEEK! YOU CANNOT STOP ME!!
WROMM!
WROAR!
OFF ME!
RUUUMMBLE!
CHOOM!!

SKOFF!
JEEZ.
MUST BE OUR LUCKY NIGHT, BOYS. FIRST WE'RE BUSTED OUT-- THEN THE WIFE-KILLER FALLS RIGHT INTO OUR LAPS.
BACK OFF!
I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU!
WHAT-- HOW'D HE--?!
THERE YOU ARE!
FEEDING TIME!
WE'VE MADE QUITE A MESS LOOKING FOR YOU!

I SUSPECT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME FOR THIS.
WHOOD!!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA.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OFTEN I WOULD THINK ABOUT OUR TIME SPENT TOGETHER AND I WOULD LAMENT THAT WE WOULD NEVER HAVE THAT AGAIN.
THIS IS NOT ONE OF THOSE TIMES.
THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I CONSIDERED YOU MY CLOSEST FRIEND.
IF I KILLED YOUR WIFE, GARY--WHY ARE YOU THE ONE IN PRISON?
YOU KILLED MY WIFE!
YOU MUST ATTACK FIRST. YOU CANNOT GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO OUTMANEUVER YOU. HE WILL BE FAST, FASTER THAN YOU.
DO YOUR BEST TO CATCH HIM OFF GUARD. HE WILL UNDERESTIMATE YOU. USE THAT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE.
GRAAAGH!!

HAVE YOU LEARNED NOTHING IN OUR TIME APART? HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO BEAT ME?!
I'VE BEEN PRACTICING!
WROKK!
C'MERE!
THOOM!
I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
STAY CLOSE TO ME AND DO EXACTLY AS I SAY. MY CONSTRUCT IS EN ROUTE. I'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF HERE IN NO TIME. THIS IS EXACTLY THE DISTRACTION WE NEEDED.
THE CHAOS WILL ACTUALLY WORK TO OUR ADVANTAGE. WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS BETTER IF WE'D PLANNED THIS.

I'M IMPRESSED--- YOU'RE FASTER, YOUR STRIKES ARE MORE PRECISE.
BUT IT WON'T MATTER.
SWOOSH
THIS IS NOTHING--- THIS WON'T EVEN SLOW ME DOWN!
I SEE THAT!
SWIFF!
WHAT ABOUT WHEN HE TURNS TO MIST? HOW DO YOU FIGHT THAT?
THIS FORM THAT HE TAKES HAS BOTH ADVANTAGES---AND DISADVANTAGES.
:GASP!:

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
AGH! STOP--
CHOMP!
YEEEAGGH!
YOU RUINED MY LIFE. YOU RUINED MY FAMILY. YOU TOOK EVERYTHING FROM ME. EVERYTHING!
THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING FOR YOU.
SHUFF!
SHUFF!

MY HAND...
MY HAND...
THIS IS NOTHING...
...WON'T EVEN SLOW ME DOWN.
THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM!
I CAN TELL YOU'RE GETTING WEAKER-- THE BLOOD LOSS, YOUR POWERS ARE DRAINING RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES.
WRAMM!
THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO KILL YOU QUICK!
RAARGH!
HOLD ON, MINOTAUR! I'M--
OH, CRAP!

SECURE THE PRISONERS--PROTECT THE GUARDS. YOU KNOW THE DRILL--FORM A PERIMETER!
WE'VE GOT TO KEEP THIS CONTAINED!

OKAY, THIS ISN'T GOOD.
JUST GET ME OUT OF HERE!
JESUS! KINETIC--- WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!
YOUR BLOOD WILL SUSTAIN ME FOR MONTHS, OLD FRIEND--- COME TO ME!
SO THIS IS WHERE THE ACTIONEERS WENT?!
YOU'RE BAD GUYS NOW?! THAT SUCKS!
KROOM!
YOU SEEM RELIEVED THAT THEY'VE ARRIVED. THEY WON'T HELP YOU---YOU'RE ONE OF THE BAD GUYS NOW, REMEMBER?
DID I REALLY NEVER KNOW YOU? DO YOU HAVE NO REMORSE FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE?!
SHKKG!

I TRUSTED YOU!
SHRRKK!
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?! I'M SORRY?!
WOULD THAT REALLY CHANGE ANYTHING?!
KRAK!
KROOM!!
WAIT.
SOMETHING IS DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU... SOMETHING I CAN'T QUITE PINPOINT. YOU KNOW THINGS YOU SHOULDN'T.
IT CAN'T JUST BE YOUR ANGER-- I THOUGHT IT WAS AT FIRST, BUT IT CAN'T BE. YOU'RE FASTER, STRONGER, SOMETHING HAS DEFINITELY CHANGED YOU.
YOU'VE BEEN GETTING HELP.

OH, JEEZ...
MY FRIENDS, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

WAIT-- YOU DIDN'T... GO TO HIM, DID YOU?
IS IT THAT OBVIOUS?
KRAK!
SUNLIGHT IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN KILL A VAMPIRE. THE STAKE THROUGH THE HEART, AS IT IS COMMONLY KNOWN, IS INEFFECTIVE.
WHAT THE STAKE DOES, IF DRIVEN THROUGH THE CHEST, AND PLUNGED INTO THE EARTH BENEATH THE VAMPIRE--IS BIND HIM TO THE EARTH.
THE VAMPIRE WILL BE UNABLE TO MOVE ON HIS OWN, THERE, PINNED TO THE GROUND, HE WILL AWAIT THE SUN'S BLAZING KISS OF DEATH.
NO!
NO!

SHLCKK!!
YOU--- FOOL.
YOU HAVE-- NO IDEA-- WHAT YOU'VE DONE--

I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'VE DONE.
NO... YOU DON'T.
YOU WENT TO HIM... YOU BROUGHT IN THE ELDER.
YOU'VE DOOMED US ALL.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
IT'S A MIRACLE YOU EVER... ESCAPED HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE. HIS BROOD, YOU AND ANY OTHER WEREWOLF HE'S SIRED... THEY ARE MEANT TO BE HIS SLAVES.
ANY TRAINING HE GAVE YOU-- WAS ONLY TO MAKE YOU A MORE CAPABLE... SERVANT. HE'LL... COME FOR YOU... AND WHEN HE DOES...
...YOU'LL NEED ME.
I'LL JUST HAVE TO MANAGE ON MY OWN THEN-- BECAUSE YOU'LL BE LONG DEAD BY THEN.
YOU REALLY THINK I'M GOING TO BELIEVE ANYTHING YOU SAY AT THIS POINT?!
ZECHARIAH!
NO...

YOU SAID YOU WOULD BRING HIM TO ME!
WROKK!
KRAK!
WROKK!
CHLOE?
WHAT ARE YOU---?
SHUT UP!
YOU WERE FIGHTING HIM? YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE GOING TO BRING HIM TO ME! YOU TOLD ME I WOULD GET TO KILL HIM!
WE HAD A DEAL--WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS?!

I...PROMISE... THAT'S WHAT I WAS DOING.
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS I GOT... SIDE-TRACKED?
WAIT, CHLOE... YOU--YOU'RE WITH HIM?
ALL THIS TIME YOU'VE BEEN MISSING... YOU'VE BEEN WITH... HIM?
HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD HELP ME. THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD GIVE ME WHAT I NEED TO MAKE YOU PAY FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE.
HE TAUGHT ME HOW TO KILL YOU, DADDY...
PLEASE--
JUST LISTEN.
YOU KILLED MY MOTHER... FOR THAT YOU HAVE TO DIE!
CHLOE, DEAR. YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME--YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG.
NO!
NO!
NO!
YOU KILLED HER--I SAW IT! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANYTHING YOU HAVE TO SAY!!

I DIDN'T KILL YOUR MOTHER.
I LOVED YOUR MOTHER.
CHLOE, I DIDN'T--
LIAR!
NO!
I SAW YOU WITH HER--HER BLOOD ALL OVER YOU--I SAW--
TONGG!

CHLOE, I WANTED TO TELL YOU--BUT I COULDN'T! I KNOW WHAT YOU SAW-- I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME!
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I WON'T!
I KNEW WHO DID KILL YOUR MOTHER, BUT I NEEDED PROOF.
I CAME HERE TO KILL YOU-- NOT TO HEAR YOUR LIES!
JUST LISTEN. YOU HAD A DEAL WITH ZECHARIAH. HE TRAINED YOU TO KILL ME-- HE SAID HE'D LET YOU KILL ME-- AND DIDN'T.
WHY IS THAT? WHY DO YOU THINK HE ATTACKED ME FIRST?
HE DOESN'T WANT US TO TALK, CHLOE. HE DOESN'T WANT YOU TO HEAR THE TRUTH.
ZECHARIAH KILLED YOUR MOTHER.

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM--HE'S NOT YOUR FATHER--HE'S CHANGED... BECOME SOMETHING ELSE.
NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE. YOU'RE MY DAUGHTER, I'M YOU'RE FATHER. I LOVE YOU... AND YOU LOVE ME.
THIS IS YOUR DAD IN HERE. NOT SOME WILD BEAST. I'M IN HERE, THE FATHER YOU KNEW ALL YOUR LIFE. YOU KNOW I COULDN'T DO THIS.
LISTEN TO ME... YOU KNOW IT'S THE TRUTH.
LET'S JUST STOP THIS--I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE. I KNOW HOW MUCH PAIN YOU'RE GOING THROUGH, I'M FEELING IT, TOO. I MISS HER, CHLOE... I MISS HER AS MUCH AS YOU DO.
PLEASE--LET'S JUST STOP.
I'M NOT GOING TO FIGHT BACK, CHLOE.
I WON'T HURT YOU, I REFUSE. PLEASE, CAN'T WE JUST GET ON WITH OUR LIVES? YOU MISS MOM... I MISS HER, TOO.
I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU, TOO.

CHLOE...
DADDY...
...I'M SORRY.

SHUK

THE ASTOUNDING
WOLF-MAN
Image
17
$2.99
ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD
FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN™

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...
THUD!
CHLOE, DEAR...
I WON'T FIGHT YOU.
SHHCRCH
HERE.
I WON'T FIGHT YOU...

I WON'T...
THUDD!
DADDY?
DADDY!

OH, GOD--I WAS SO STUPID. I--I CAN'T--I'M SO SORRY, DADDY.
I'M SO SORRY.
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LISTENED TO HIM-- I THOUGHT I'D LOST YOU TOO... I SEPARATED YOU FROM WHAT YOU'D BECOME. I DIDN'T... I--
PLEASE DON'T DIE-- PLEASE!
DON'T CRY, CHLOE--
--I'LL BE OKAY.
TOO MUCH BLOOD--
NO!
WELL, WELL, WELL...
LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!

A LITTLE YOUNG, SURE... BUT BEGGARS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS.
THIS ONE IS RIPE FOR TAKING.
YUCK.

YOU GUYS HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE GETTING INTO.
AH, QUICK! I WELCOME CHALLENGE!
BZZZACKT!
HEH--I LIKE YOUR STYLE, PAL. IT'S MUCH MORE FUN WHEN THEY FIGHT BACK!
UNGH!
SHINKK!
YOU CALL ME KURSK, FRIEND.
PLEASE FORGIVE ENGLISH. AM RUSSIAN.
BZZZKT!
NNNNG!
EEEAGH!
BZZZZTTKKT!
BONUS.
NO MORE SHARE.

BACK OFF!
OOF!
WRAMM!
BZZKT!
UNGH.
DON'T MOVE.

WHOK!
REALLY, LITTLE GIRL?
YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE! IT'S NOT SAFE FOR YOU!
YOU NEED MY HELP AS MUCH AS I NEED YOURS!
I'M NOT GOING TO LEAVE WITHOUT YOU!
DAMMIT, CHLOE--THIS ISN'T A GAME! YOU COULD GET HURT!

TRUST ME, DADDY--I'VE GROWN UP!
I CAN HANDLE MYSELF!
SVOOSH!
HURKK!
THAT WILL TAKE SOME GETTING USED TO.
WHOOOM!
YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE--THIS IS OUR LIFE NOW. I THINK WE BOTH NEED TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH IT.
THIS, I CAN LIVE WITH. WHAT WE HAD BEFORE--NOT SO MUCH.
SVOOSH!
KROK!
THIS GUY'S OUT.
GREAT, MINE TOO--
OH, CRAP.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHO IS THIS IDIOT?
THIS IS ERUPTOR, A BRIEF ASSOCIATE OF MINE.
COME ON, CONSTRUCT-- I KNOW YOU--YOU GOT A WAY OUT OF HERE!
PLEASE-- JUST TAKE ME WITH YOU!
YOU KNOW HIM.
BRING HIM OR LEAVE HIM?
HE'S NOT COMPLETELY USELESS...
OKAY, THEN--
MOVE!
VOFF!!
AAGH!
OKAY, HE COMES WITH US. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE WHILE WE STILL CAN.
THANKS-- REALLY, THANKS!
DON'T SCREW THIS UP FOR ME.

I HAVE TO GO.
GO? GO WHERE?!
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH TIME TO EXPLAIN.
THERE'S A VILLAIN CALLED THE FACE--AND HE'S GOT SOME KIND OF MASTER PLAN THAT I THINK I CAN STOP--I'D BE SAVING LIVES. I HAVE TO DO THIS.
OKAY, SO GO.
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'LL BE GONE. I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE YOU.
SO WHAT? I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF. I'LL BE FINE. I'VE GOT A LOT TO SORT OUT... I COULD USE THE TIME.
YOU DO WHAT YOU NEED TO DO. I UNDERSTAND YOUR DRIVE TO HELP PEOPLE.
ONCE I STOPPED BLAMING YOU FOR EVERYTHING... EVERYTHING I'VE DONE DOESN'T FEEL SO... JUSTIFIED.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR... GUILT.
IF WHAT YOU DO PREVENTS ONE FAMILY FROM HAVING TO GO THROUGH WHAT WE'VE GONE THROUGH--IT'S WORTH IT.
I UNDERSTAND, I DO. SO GO.
I HATE TO DO THIS--THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO TELL YOU. SO MUCH I WANT TO ASK YOU.

THIS FIGHT LOOKS TO BE ABOUT OVER. YOU WAIT HERE--IF I'M RIGHT, THERE WILL BE A MAN HERE, WHITE HAIR, SCAR ON HIS FACE... HIS NAME IS CECIL.
TELL HIM WHO YOU ARE, TELL HIM WHAT HAPPENED HERE. HE'LL BELIEVE YOU.
TELL HIM ABOUT ZECHARIAH... DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY... HE DESERVES HIS FATE.
STAY SAFE-- I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN.
DAD, I--
I KNOW. I'M SORRY IT HAD TO HAPPEN LIKE THIS, BUT I'M GLAD TO HAVE FOUND YOU-- AND I HOPE THAT WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO BEING A FAMILY AGAIN.
I LOVE YOU, DAD.
I LOVE YOU, TOO.
STAY SAFE!

...AND I'M SORRY.
WRAMM!
--AND STAY DOWN!
THAT'S THE LAST OF THE HOSTILES BUT WE'VE GOT COUNTLESS PRISONERS IN THE WIND. ROUNDING THEM UP WON'T BE EASY--IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE.
GET ME A DIRECT LINE TO THE PENTAGON, WE'RE GOING TO NEED HELP ON THIS ONE.

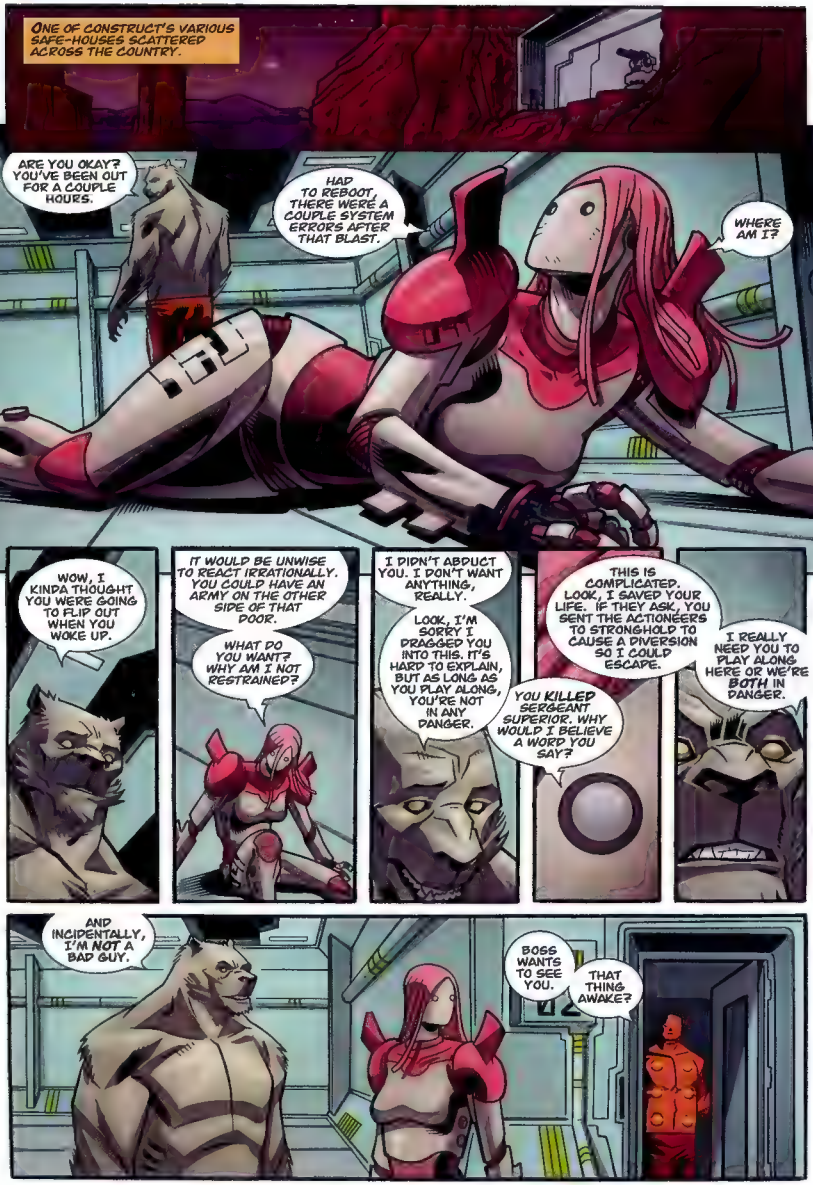
NICE SHOT. SHE DIDN'T EVEN SEE IT COMING.
MINE NOW.
RUNN
BZZZCKK!
ONE MELTED ROBOT-CHICK, COMING UP!
STOP!

LET HER GO!
DO WHAT HE SAYS, ERUPTOR! KILL HIM INSTEAD.
WITH PLEASURE.
YOU WILL DO NO SUCH THING.
WOLF-MAN IS WITH ME.
WHY ARE YOU PROTECTING THIS THING?
SHE'S BEEN WORKING WITH ME. SHE HELPED CAUSE THIS ATTACK ON THE JAIL THAT'S PROVIDING OUR ESCAPE.
THIS ISN'T THE KIND OF THANKS SHE'D EXPECT.
BRING HER.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!

WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM?
WOLF-MAN IS THE REASON WE'RE BOTH HERE! AND THE ROBOT IS MECHA-MAID-- SHE'S ONE OF THE ACTIONEERS!
BOTH OF THEM ARE GOOD GUYS! YOU KNOW... THE KIND THAT PUTS OUR KIND IN JAIL!
WOLF-MAN WOULD BE DEAD IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME. HE OWES ME. NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT THE ENTIRE WORLD HATES HIM.
THAT TENDS TO CHANGE A MAN'S OUTLOOK.
AS FOR THE ACTIONEERS, WEREN'T THEY BACK THERE CAUSING A DIVERSION SO WE COULD ESCAPE?
OR WERE YOU NOT PAYING ATTENTION?! KEEP IN MIND, I HAVE A LOW TOLERANCE FOR STUPIDITY.
IF YOU INSIST, I CAN PUT ASIDE OUR DIFFERENCES FOR THE TIME BEING.
OUR RIDE IS HERE.
VVVVVVVVVVVV!

I BET YOUR NAME IS ZECHARIAH.
THERE, I KNEW YOU WERE AWAKE.
WE'RE GOING TO BE ARRESTING YOU, NOW. CONSIDERING THE SUN'S ABOUT TO COME UP... I ASSUME YOU'LL HAVE NO OBJECTIONS.
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING ILLEGAL.
I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT I KNOW GARY HAMPTON... AND I BELIEVE EVERYTHING HE'S HAD TO SAY ABOUT YOU.
SO WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT--YOU AND I ARE GOING TO SPEND SOME TIME TOGETHER.

YOU'RE SURE THIS IS NECESSARY.
THE GUY CAN TURN INTO A PILE OF GAS, SO YES--THE AIRTIGHT TRANSPORT IS NECESSARY. NOW START PROGRAMMING THAT THING, YOU'VE GOT LESS THAN 15 MINUTES BEFORE THE SUN COMES--
BACK OFF!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
SHE HAD A SWORD--WAS COMING AT YOU TO ATTACK. WE THINK SHE'S WORKING WITH THE PRISONERS.
MY DAD TOLD ME TO FIND YOU! HE SAID YOU'D LISTEN TO ME!
YOUR DAD?
GARY HAMPTON.
LET HER GO. SHE'S WITH ME.


ONE OF CONSTRUCT'S VARIOUS SAFE-HOUSES SCATTERED ACROSS THE COUNTRY.
ARE YOU OKAY? YOU'VE BEEN OUT FOR A COUPLE HOURS.
HAD TO REBOOT. THERE WERE A COUPLE SYSTEM ERRORS AFTER THAT BLAST.
WHERE AM I?
WOW, I KINDA THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO FLIP OUT WHEN YOU WOKE UP.
IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO REACT IRRATIONALLY. YOU COULD HAVE AN ARMY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOOR.
WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHY AM I NOT RESTRAINED?
I DIDN'T ABDUCT YOU. I DON'T WANT ANYTHING, REALLY.
LOOK, I'M SORRY I DRAGGED YOU INTO THIS. IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN, BUT AS LONG AS YOU PLAY ALONG, YOU'RE NOT IN ANY DANGER.
YOU KILLED SERGEANT SUPERIOR. WHY WOULD I BELIEVE A WORD YOU SAY?
THIS IS COMPLICATED. LOOK, I SAVED YOUR LIFE. IF THEY ASK, YOU SENT THE ACTIONEERS TO STRONGHOLD TO CAUSE A DIVERSION SO I COULD ESCAPE.
I REALLY NEED YOU TO PLAY ALONG HERE OR WE'RE BOTH IN DANGER.
AND INCIDENTALLY, I'M NOT A BAD GUY.
BOSS WANTS TO SEE YOU.
THAT THING AWAKE?

THIS THING IS NAMED MECHA-MAID. SHOW SOME RESPECT.
WATCH YOURSELF, PAL. I GET AN OPENING ON YOU--I MIGHT JUST TAKE IT.
THAT DIDN'T WORK OUT TOO WELL FOR YOU LAST TIME. THINK ABOUT THAT.
GLAD YOU AND YOUR ROBOT COMPANION COULD JOIN US. I TRUST SHE'S FUNCTIONING PROPERLY?
FINE, THANKS.
WHAT DO YOU WANT, FACE?
NEED YOU TO WORK YOUR MAGIC. I NEED GARY HAMPTON TO USE HIS CONTACTS TO GET US SAFELY OUT OF THIS COUNTRY.
CONSTRUCT COULDN'T FLY INTO ANOTHER COUNTRY'S AIRSPACE WITHOUT STARTING A WAR. WE NEED A LEGITIMATE AIRCRAFT. I FIGURE YOU KNOW MORE THAN A FEW PEOPLE WITH PRIVATE PLANES.
AS YOU KNOW, MY SITUATION IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT THESE DAYS. I CAN DO IT, BUT HOW MUCH TIME DO I HAVE?
TWO DAYS. WE'RE GOING TO LAY LOW HERE FOR A WHILE. THIS IS ONE OF CONSTRUCT'S HIDEOUTS... WE CAN STAY HERE. WE'RE SAFE.
NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT THIS PLACE.

HE'S THERE, ALL RIGHT. HAS THE ROBOT WOMAN FROM THE ACTIONEERS WITH THEM. I HAVE THEM IN SIGHT.
RIGHT WHERE YOU SAID THEY'D BE.

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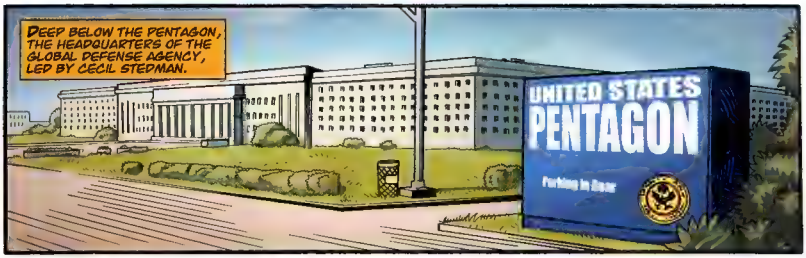
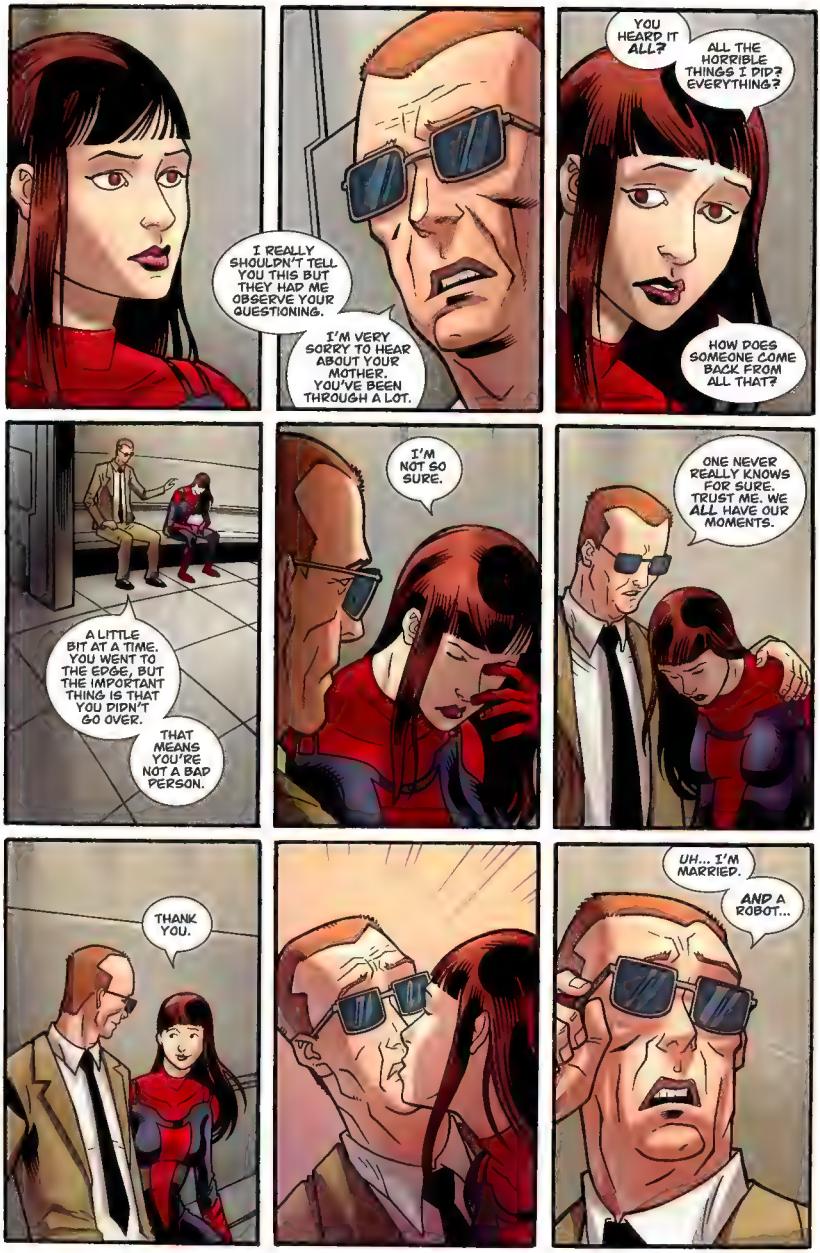

DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON, THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY, LED BY CECIL STEDMAN.
UNITED STATES
PENTAGON
Parking In Rear

HI, I'M DONALD FERGUSON. THEY SENT ME OUT HERE TO TELL YOU THERE WON'T BE ANY MORE QUESTIONS. WE APPRECIATE YOU GIVING US THIS TIME.
SOMEONE WILL BE ALONG TO TAKE YOU HOME SHORTLY.

SIGH.

ARE YOU OKAY?
I FEEL STUPID WEARING THIS COSTUME. SITTING HERE, IN THIS LIGHT... BEING INTERROGATED...
I FEEL RIDICULOUS.

TRUST ME, YOU FIT RIGHT IN AROUND HERE.
I'VE SEEN MUCH WORSE.


I REALLY SHOULDN'T TELL YOU THIS BUT THEY HAD ME OBSERVE YOUR QUESTIONING.
I'M VERY SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR MOTHER. YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT.
YOU HEARD IT ALL?
ALL THE HORRIBLE THINGS I DID? EVERYTHING?
HOW DOES SOMEONE COME BACK FROM ALL THAT?
A LITTLE BIT AT A TIME. YOU WENT TO THE EDGE, BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YOU DIDN'T GO OVER.
THAT MEANS YOU'RE NOT A BAD PERSON.
I'M NOT SO SURE.
ONE NEVER REALLY KNOWS FOR SURE. TRUST ME. WE ALL HAVE OUR MOMENTS.
THANK YOU.
UH... I'M MARRIED.
AND A ROBOT...

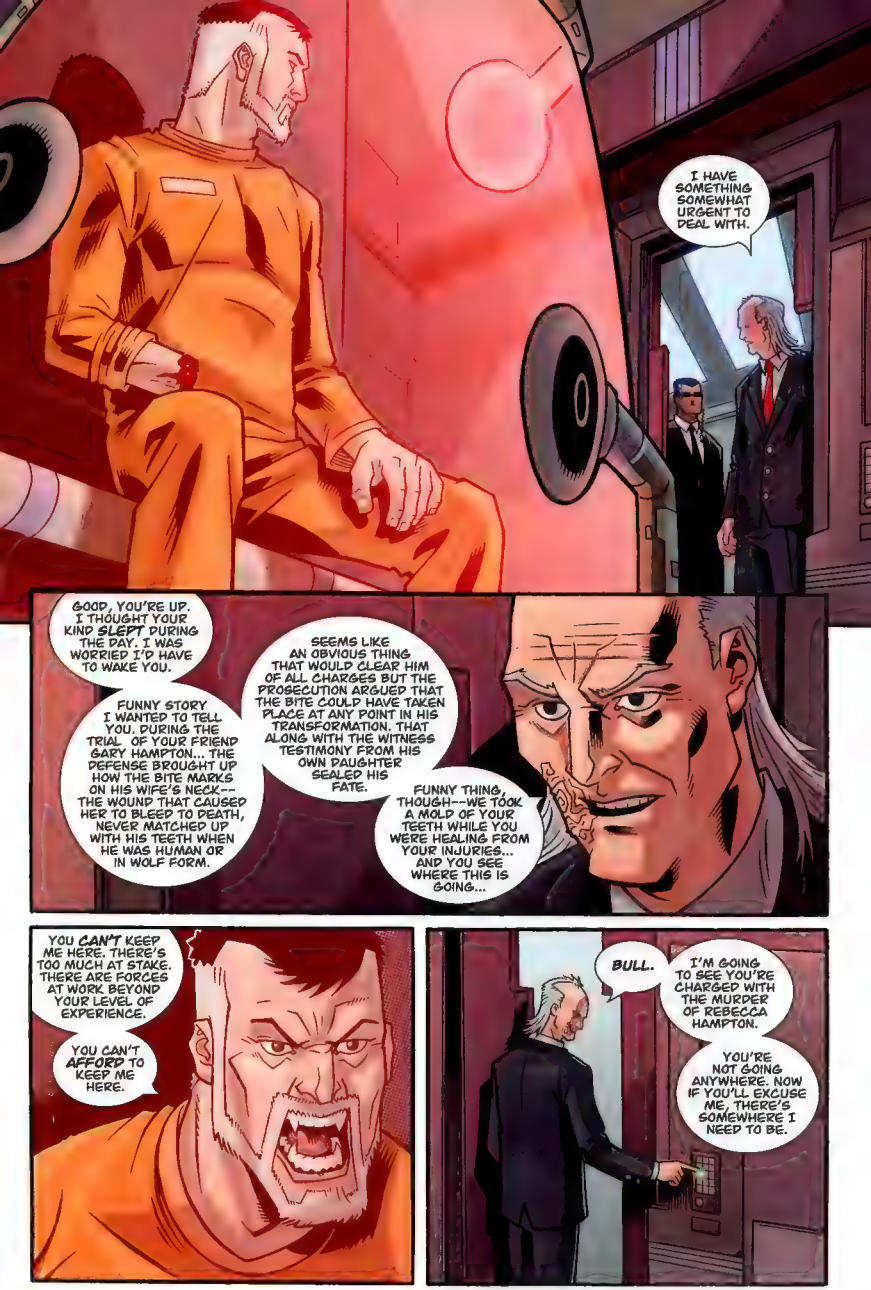
AND I'M SIXTEEN.
GROSS.
SORRY, WHEN MY BRAIN WAS PUT INTO THIS ROBOT BODY, IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO GET ACCLIMATED. I'M STILL NOT IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF MY EMOTIONS.
I JUST READ YOU WRONG. SORRY.
HUMAN BRAIN?
DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU A CYBORG?
I SUPPOSE, TECHNICALLY, YES... THAT IS A MORE ACCURATE TERM. I JUST THINK "ROBOT" SOUNDS BETTER... MORE EASY FOR MOST PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT "CYBORG" SOUNDED A LITTLE TOO INSIDE BASEBALL.
SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A SCIENCE FICTION MOVIE.
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT.
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOFY FOR A SECRET AGENT.
I SUPPOSE SO. Y'KNOW WHAT?
I'LL JUST TAKE YOU HOME MYSELF.
PROBABLY BE FASTER ANYWAY.

ELSEWHERE. CONSTRUCT'S SAFE HOUSE.
NICE.
VERY NICE.

THIS IS IMPRESSIVE, YOUR MACHINES MADE THIS? IT'S JUST LIKE MY COSTUME.
THE GAUNTLETS SHOULD WORK, TOO.
NO, ACTUALLY, THEY NEVER WORKED. THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO STORE MOONLIGHT AND ALLOW ME TO REMAIN IN WOLF-FORM FOR A LIMITED TIME DURING THE DAY.
THEY NEVER QUITE WORKED RIGHT, THOUGH. I ONLY TRIED IT ONCE.
MUST HAVE BEEN A PROBLEM WITH THE DISBURSEMENT INTENSITY. I HAD TO MAKE MORE THAN A FEW ADJUSTMENTS.
WORKS NOW--AS LONG AS YOU SPEND ENOUGH TIME IN THE MOONLIGHT TO CHARGE THEM UP, OF COURSE. AN ENTIRE NIGHT SHOULD BUY YOU ALMOST TWO HOURS.
WHAT YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED HERE IS STUNNING. I FEEL LIKE I WAS JUST BUILT.
THE REPAIRS YOU MADE ARE AMAZING.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE THAT YOU'VE ALL PUT YOUR DIFFERENCES ASIDE. THANK YOU.
BUT, ENOUGH CHIT CHAT. LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.

WOLF-MAN... I TRUST YOU HAVE EVERYTHING IN ORDER?
YES, I'VE TOUCHED BASE WITH MY CONTACT. SOUNDS LIKE HE CAN HELP US OUT HERE. THIS GUY OWES ME, HE'S WILLING TO WORK WITH ME ON THIS, DESPITE MY FUGITIVE STATUS.
AS LONG AS CONSTRUCT CAN GET US TO MIAMI. HE'S GOT A PRIVATE JET WAITING TO TAKE US TO BRAZIL. ONCE THERE WE'LL BE ABLE TO BOARD A MILITARY TRANSPORT BOUND FOR EUROPE.
FRANCE, I BELIEVE.
ONCE WE'RE THERE, CONSTRUCT SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET US WHEREVER WE NEED TO BE. WHICH IS *WHERE* EXACTLY?
THAT'S NOT YOUR CONCERN.
WHEN EXACTLY ARE YOU GOING TO FILL US IN ON WHAT YOUR PLAN ACTUALLY *IS*?
WHEN YOU NEED TO KNOW-- YOU'LL *KNOW*.
UNTIL THEN, SHUT UP AND DO WHAT I SAY.

DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON, THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY, LED BY CECIL STEDMAN.
UNITED STATES PENTAGON
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
I KNOW SOMETHING IS GOING ON. YOU HAD GARY HAMPTON'S DAUGHTER HERE FOR QUESTIONING ALL DAY. YOU LET HER GO.
YOU KNOW SOMETHING.
LOOK, I UNDERSTAND THERE'S A "PAY GRADE" SITUATION HERE THAT PREVENTS ME FROM KNOWING EVERYTHING THAT GOES ON-- BUT I'M A DEDICATED AGENT.
I DON'T WANT TO BE WORKING ON THE SIDE ON SOMETHING THAT COULD END UP BEING A GIGANTIC WASTE OF TIME BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
I APPRECIATE THAT, I DO. BUT...
...
THE WOLF-MAN INVESTIGATION IS OVER.
LET IT GO. THAT'S AN ORDER.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.


I HAVE SOMETHING SOMEWHAT URGENT TO DEAL WITH.
GOOD, YOU'RE UP. I THOUGHT YOUR KIND SLEPT DURING THE DAY. I WAS WORRIED I'D HAVE TO WAKE YOU.
FUNNY STORY I WANTED TO TELL YOU. DURING THE TRIAL OF YOUR FRIEND GARY HAMPTON... THE DEFENSE BROUGHT UP HOW THE BITE MARKS ON HIS WIFE'S NECK-- THE WOUND THAT CAUSED HER TO BLEED TO DEATH, NEVER MATCHED UP WITH HIS TEETH WHEN HE WAS HUMAN OR IN WOLF FORM.
SEEMS LIKE AN OBVIOUS THING THAT WOULD CLEAR HIM OF ALL CHARGES BUT THE PROSECUTION ARGUED THAT THE BITE COULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT ANY POINT IN HIS TRANSFORMATION. THAT ALONG WITH THE WITNESS TESTIMONY FROM HIS OWN DAUGHTER SEALED HIS FATE.
FUNNY THING, THOUGH--WE TOOK A MOLD OF YOUR TEETH WHILE YOU WERE HEALING FROM YOUR INJURIES... AND YOU SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING...
YOU CAN'T KEEP ME HERE. THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE. THERE ARE FORCES AT WORK BEYOND YOUR LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE.
YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO KEEP ME HERE.
BULL.
I'M GOING TO SEE YOU'RE CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF REBECCA HAMPTON.
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE. NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, THERE'S SOMEWHERE I NEED TO BE.

THE HAMPTON ESTATE.
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.
NO PROBLEM. I'LL SEE YOU AROUND.
I'M...
I'M SO SORRY FOR EVERYTHING...

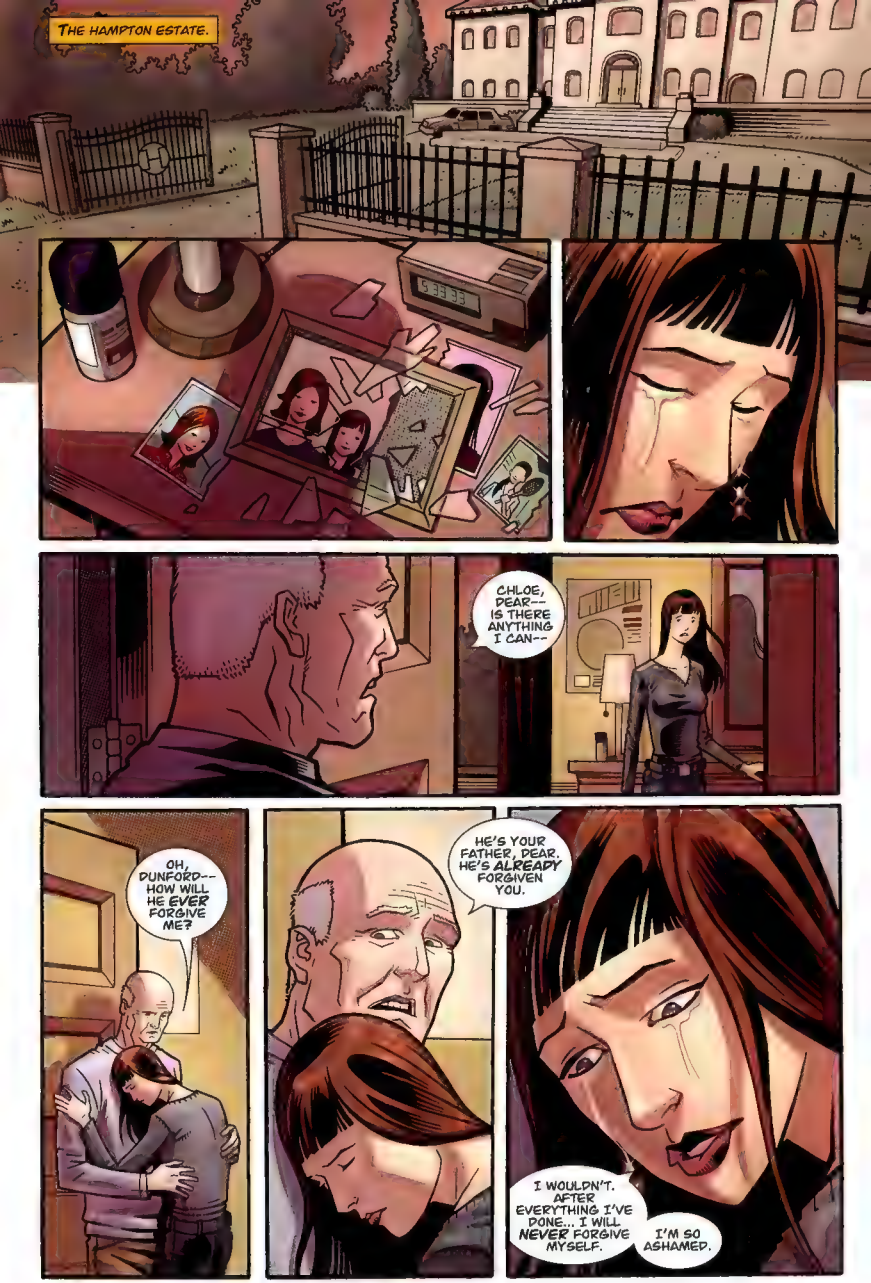
OH, CHILD...
WHEN MY MOTHER DIED I WAS BESIDE MYSELF. I NEARLY LOST IT. TO LOSE YOURS UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES YOU DID--AT YOUR YOUNG AGE...
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR.
SORRY FOR THE INTRUSION.
CHLOE, SORRY I COULDN'T TELL YOU THIS BEFORE YOU'D LEFT THE PENTAGON... I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO KNOW RIGHT AWAY...
I KNOW YOU ALREADY BELIEVED HIM, BUT WE HAVE HARD EVIDENCE NOW. YOUR FATHER DID NOT KILL YOUR MOTHER.

ABOVE CONSTRUCT'S SAFEHOUSE.
I'VE HAD TO DEAL WITH A LOT OF DISAPPOINTMENT LATELY. I'M REALLY TRUSTING YOU ON THIS. DON'T LET ME DOWN.
I ASSURE YOU--YOU CAN TRUST ME ON THIS.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT HE'S PLANNING? HOW CAN YOU KNOW WE CAN STOP IT?
SIMPLE ANSWER? I DON'T--BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M NOT GOING TO TRY.
WE'RE READY TO MOVE OUT. ARE YOU SURE YOUR GUY HAS EVERYTHING IN PLACE?
I AM. HE'S TRUSTWORTHY. HE'S HAD SOME SHADY DEALINGS IN THE PAST THAT I'VE LEARNED ABOUT AND KEPT SECRET.
THE GUY OWES ME.
YOU'D BETTER BE RIGHT--OR ELSE--
UH...

BETRAYER!
YOU WORK WITH THE HUMANS WHEN YOU SHOULD BE RULING THEM!
YOU SHAME US ALL--!
KRAK!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU ARE!

KRAK!
YOU TURN YOUR BACK ON OUR KIND! YOU TRY TO LIVE AMONG THEM WHEN THEY ARE BENEATH YOU!
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW YOURSELF!
YOU'RE INSANE!
YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE!
WRAMM!
I'LL MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND!
EVEN IF IT KILLS YOU!
YOU CAN TRY--
WOLF-MAN!
I'VE GOT YOU!
GIVE ME A MINUTE.
GET OFF!
LISTEN TO ME.

I'M WITH CECIL. TAKE THIS. IT'S A COMMUNICATOR.
WHAT?! I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
I WORK FOR HIM NOW. YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
THANK YOU.
WHO ARE YOU?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. COMPLETE YOUR MISSION.
IF YOU'RE THROUGH WITH YOUR PLAYMATE... WE'VE GOT A PLANE TO CATCH.


THE HAMPTON ESTATE.
CHLOE, DEAR-- IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN--
OH, DUNFORD-- HOW WILL HE EVER FORGIVE ME?
HE'S YOUR FATHER, DEAR. HE'S ALREADY FORGIVEN YOU.
I WOULDN'T. AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE DONE... I WILL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF.
I'M SO ASHAMED.

A PRIVATE AIRSTRIP IN MIAMI, FLORIDA.
WE HAVE SOME LUGGAGE.
JUST TELL ME WHERE THEY GO, I CAN TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
YOU SCREW THIS UP FOR ME AND I'LL KILL YOU. UNDERSTAND?
ANY MORE RANDOM WEREWOLF ATTACKS AND YOU'RE DONE. I WON'T TOLERATE THAT NONSENSE.
YOU WANT TO CONTINUE TO BE AN ASSET.
BECOME A LIABILITY--AND I'LL HELP YOU FIND YOUR DAUGHTER--SO I CAN MURDER HER IN FRONT OF YOU.

THE PENTAGON.
UNITED STATES
PENTAGON
STILL AT IT, ARE THEY?
YEAH.
JESUS.
PLEASE! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO US!
THE HUNGER! NO!
HELP US!
AARRGH!
I USED TO LOOK UP TO THESE PEOPLE.
CECIL DECIDE WHAT HE'S GOING TO DO WITH THEM?
SUPPOSED TO BE MEETING ME HERE TO DISCUSS IT. SOMETHING'S KEEPING HIM.
MUST HAVE A CALL RUNNING LONG.

MILITARY CARGO PLANE, APPROACHING THE UNITED KINGDOM.
I'M GLAD YOU FINALLY GOT A FREE MOMENT TO TURN ON THE EARPIECE, KID. JUST IN CASE YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE THE VOICE, IT'S ME, CECIL STEDMAN.
I CAN TRACK THE EARPIECE, LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ON A MILITARY CARGO SHIP HEADED FOR ONE OF OUR MILITARY BASES IN THE U.K. DON'T QUITE KNOW HOW YOU PULLED THAT OFF. BRAVO.
I'LL EXPECT THAT TO BE PART OF YOUR DEBRIEF WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER.
I UNDERSTAND WE CAN'T TALK NOW, SO JUST LISTEN AND DO WHAT YOU CAN TO FIND SOME ALONE TIME ONCE YOU LAND. I NEED TO BE KEPT IN THE LOOP.
YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT I FOUND YOUR DAUGHTER DURING THE PRISON BREAK. SHE'S HOME NOW, BUT WE'RE KEEPING A LID ON THINGS SO THE FACE DOESN'T THINK SHE'S BEEN FOUND.
WOLF-MAN!
I DON'T THINK SHE'S IN A HURRY TO RETURN TO SCHOOL ANYWAY.
ANOTHER THING YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW--
WOLF-MAN!
WHAT?!
STOP DAYDREAMING.
THIS IS OUR STOP.

DON'T IGNORE HIM AGAIN, COULD RAISE SUSPICION. THE FACE ISN'T STUPID, I'M SURE HE'S GOT AN EYE OR TWO ON YOU AT ALL TIMES.
BE CAREFUL.
I DON'T THINK I NEED TO REMIND YOU HOW IMPERATIVE IT IS THAT YOU FIGURE OUT WHATEVER IT IS THE FACE IS PLANNING AND STOP IT.
OUR CURRENT ANALYSIS HAS THE MOST LIKELY SCENARIO INVOLVING THE NUCLEAR STOCKPILES OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.
I PRAY WE'RE WRONG...

SNIFF! SNIFF!
ALMOST TIME.

THE ASTOUNDING
WOLF-MAN
image
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JASON HOWARD
FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN

ROBERT KIRKMAN — writer
JASON HOWARD — penciler, inker
RUS WOOTON — letterer
FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA — colorists
AUBREY SITTERSON — editor

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN created by ROBERT KIRKMAN & JASON HOWARD

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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN #19. October 2009. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2134 Allston Way, 2nd Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704.

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IT USED TO PISS ME OFF, THE FACT THAT I NEVER HEARD HIS VOICE UNTIL AFTER I WAS LOCKED AWAY IN PRISON.
NEVER REALLY KNEW WHY THAT WAS... MAYBE I JUST WASN'T WILLING TO LISTEN BEFORE...
...SITTING IN THAT CELL, BORED OUT OF MY MIND... HE STARTED SPEAKING TO ME.
AS I UNDERSTAND IT... THE UNIQUE DUAL-BRAIN THAT I HAVE ALLOWS ME TO HEAR IT. IT'S BEEN HERE, FOR A VERY VERY LONG TIME, WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO HEAR ITS PLEAS FOR HELP.
IT WANTS TO BE RELEASED. THAT'S ALL. AND FOR THAT, IT'S WILLING TO... TAKE REQUESTS. IT HAS POWER BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION-- SO OF COURSE, I'M WILLING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET THIS THING UNDER MY CONTROL.
SO IF YOU FREE THIS... WHATEVER IT IS, IT WILL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT IT TO?
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL THIS?
WHO ELSE AM I GOING TO TELL? YOU THINK ANY OF THE OTHERS WOULD BELIEVE ME? NO, ONLY YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED ENOUGH TO EVEN CONSIDER BELIEVING MY STORY.
THE OTHERS WOULD THINK I WAS CRAZY AND TRY TO KILL ME ON THE SPOT... AND WE CAN'T HAVE THAT.

COME.
THERE'S NO MORE TIME TO WASTE. LET'S GET STARTED.
I HEARD IT ALL, KID. THIS GUY HAS CLEARLY LOST IT. LET'S JUST SIT BACK AND SEE WHAT HE DOES.
I'LL ADVISE YOU ONCE WE KNOW THE SCORE.

OKAY, PEOPLE. TIME TO GET TO WORK.
CONSTRUCT, WITHOUT KNOCKING IT OVER, PUSH THAT ROCK OVER EXACTLY THREE INCHES.
WE FIND OUT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT SOON, RIGHT? THIS IS GETTING OLD.
ERUPTOR AND MECHA-MAID, KNOCK OVER THAT ROCK.

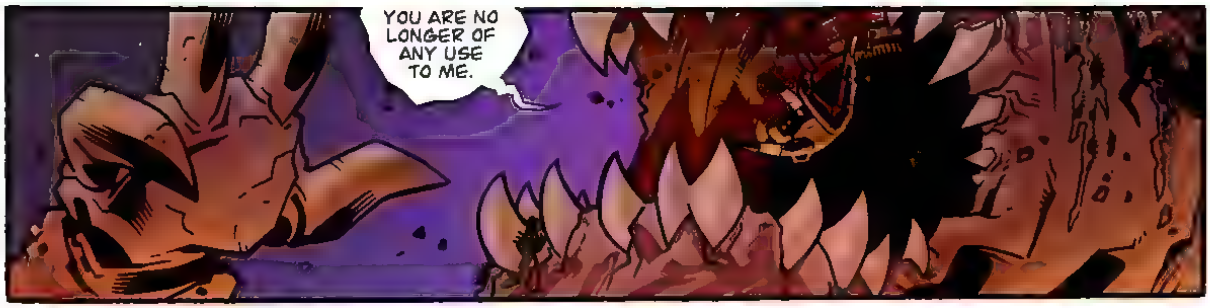
BUT--?
BETTER SNAP TO IT, SUGAR. THE FACE DOESN'T TOLERATE OPINIONS.
UNGH.
THUD!!

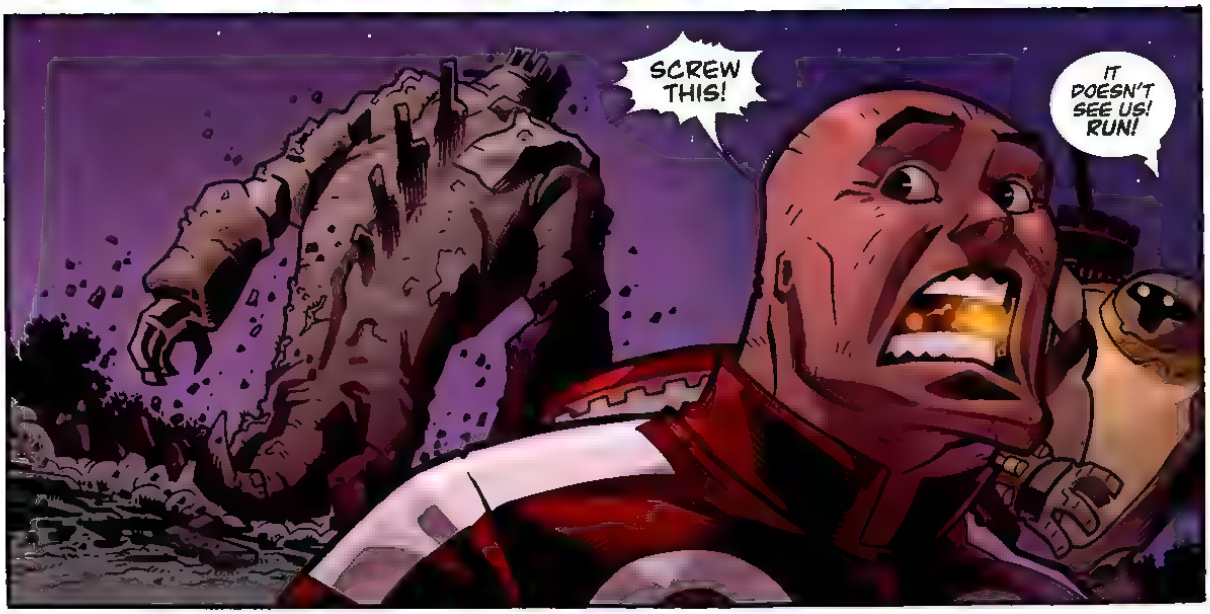
BEHOLD, GORGG!!

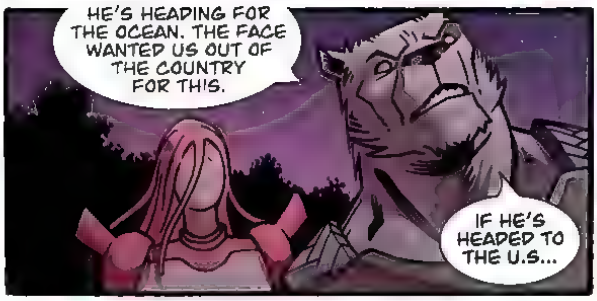
OH, GREAT ONE, I AM HONORED TO GREET YOU AND PROVIDE YOUR EMERGENCE!
ARE YOU PREPARED TO RECEIVE YOUR TASKS?

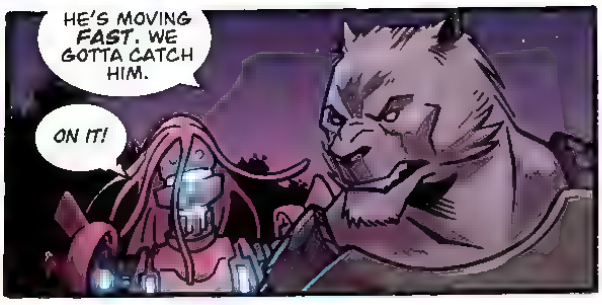
UH...

TO THE ONE KNOWN AS THE FACE--YOU HAVE SERVED ME WELL.
AFTER EIGHT-THOUSAND YEARS OF SLUMBER, I AM FREE.
I THANK YOU.


YOU ARE NO LONGER OF ANY USE TO ME.


SCREW THIS!
IT DOESN'T SEE US! RUN!


HE'S HEADING FOR THE OCEAN. THE FACE WANTED US OUT OF THE COUNTRY FOR THIS.
IF HE'S HEADED TO THE U.S...


HE'S MOVING FAST. WE GOTTA CATCH HIM.
ON IT!

OKAY.
WATER'S SLOWING HIM DOWN.
VOOSH!!

ALMOST THERE.
HERE GOES NOTHING!
SKRRGG!!
WHAT MANNER OF BEAST SACRIFICES HIS LIFE FOR MY MERE ANNOYANCE?!
BE GONE!
THAT'S NOT GOING TO BE ENOUGH.
I THINK I CAN HELP.
GIVE ME WHATEVER YOU GOT!

NEAT!
OH--
WOW!
KERZACKLE-POW!!

CRAP.
SORRY.
S'OKAY. MY PAIN RECEPTORS HAVE BEEN TAKEN OFFLINE. I CAN REPAIR ANY DAMAGES LATER. DON'T HOLD BACK.
HMPH!
PERSISTENT.
CRAP!
CRAP!
CRAP!

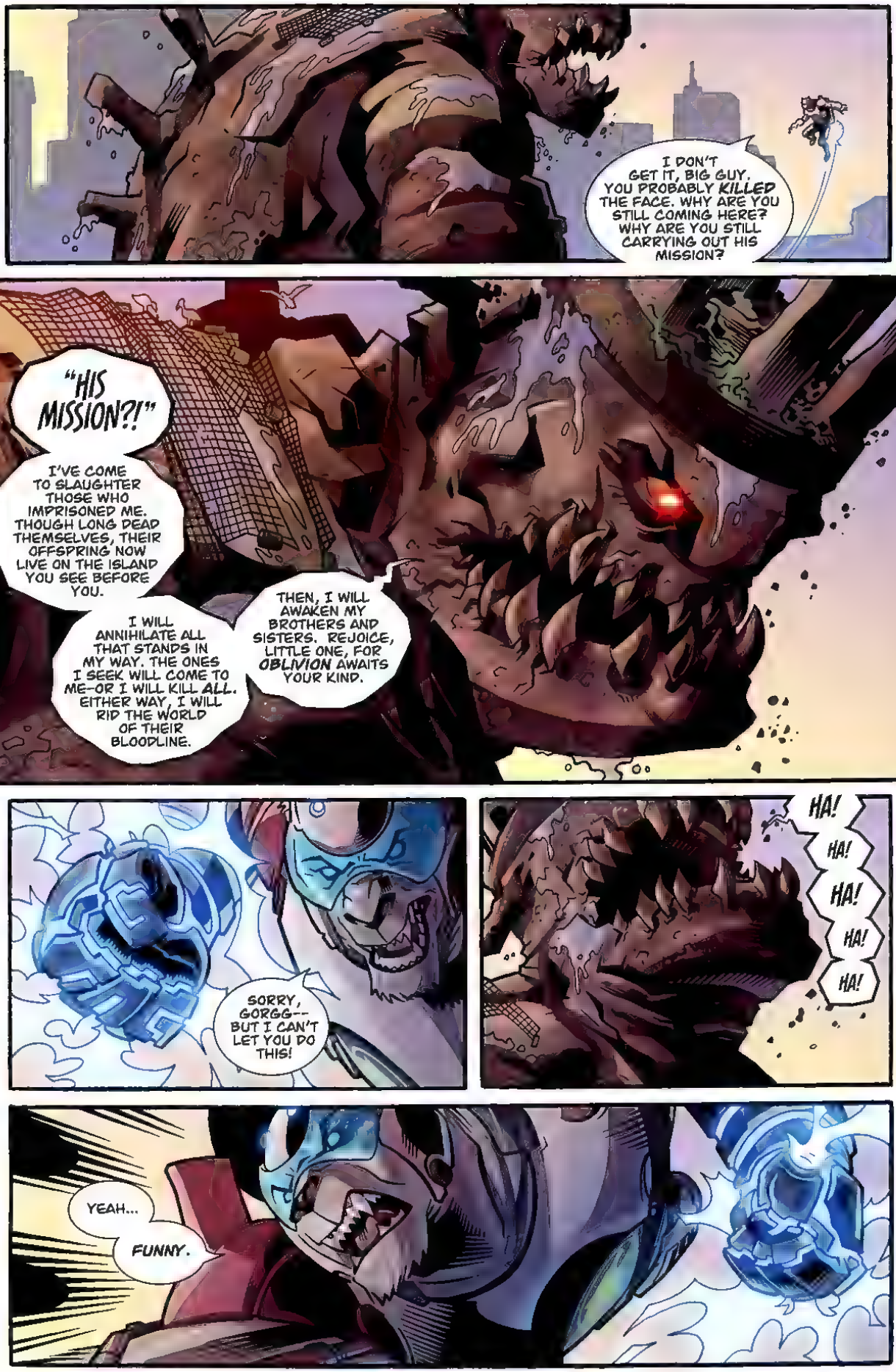
SUN'S CATCHING UP WITH US.
I HOPE THESE NEW GAUNTLETS CONSTRUCT MADE FOR ME ACTUALLY WORK!

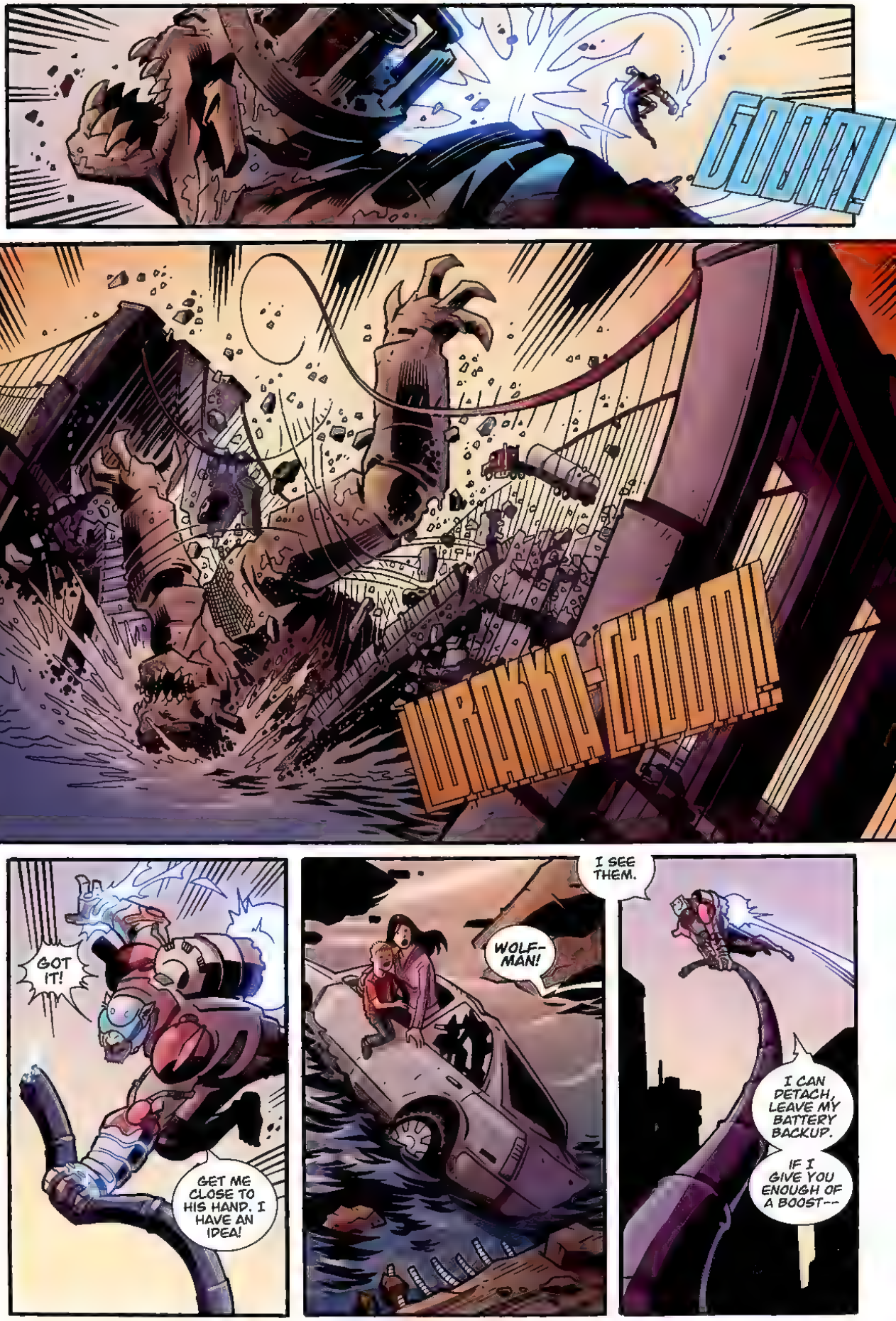
THERE.

KRACKLE-CHOOM!
YOU DARE---?!
SPLA-GOOSH!
LOOK OUT!
WHAT'S THIS GUY'S BEEF? THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! HOW ARE WE GOING TO BE ABLE TO STOP HIM?!
OOP!!
SPLOOSH!
OH, NO.
GETTING WORSE. IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE WE TRAVELED THIS FAR ALREADY...

ENOUGH!
GORGG HAS HAD ENOUGH!

AAGH!
HOLD ON, HONEY!
WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE!!

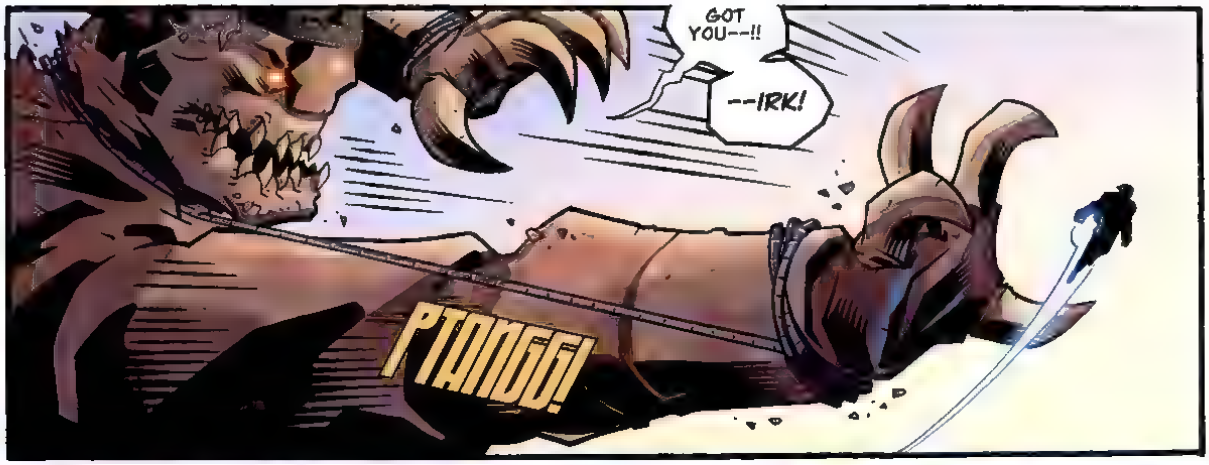

I DON'T GET IT, BIG GUY. YOU PROBABLY KILLED THE FACE. WHY ARE YOU STILL COMING HERE? WHY ARE YOU STILL CARRYING OUT HIS MISSION?
"HIS MISSION?!"
I'VE COME TO SLAUGHTER THOSE WHO IMPRISONED ME. THOUGH LONG DEAD THEMSELVES, THEIR OFFSPRING NOW LIVE ON THE ISLAND YOU SEE BEFORE YOU.
I WILL ANNIHILATE ALL THAT STANDS IN MY WAY. THE ONES I SEEK WILL COME TO ME--OR I WILL KILL ALL. EITHER WAY, I WILL RID THE WORLD OF THEIR BLOODLINE.
THEN, I WILL AWAKEN MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS. REJOICE, LITTLE ONE, FOR OBLIVION AWAITS YOUR KIND.
SORRY, GORGG-- BUT I CAN'T LET YOU DO THIS!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
YEAH...
FUNNY.


BOOM!
WRAKKA-CHOOM!
GOT IT!
GET ME CLOSE TO HIS HAND. I HAVE AN IDEA!
WOLF-MAN!
I SEE THEM.
I CAN DETACH, LEAVE MY BATTERY BACKUP.
IF I GIVE YOU ENOUGH OF A BOOST--

JUST DO IT!
VOOSH!
CLIK CHUK!
WHOA!
FWUP! FWUP! FWUP!
STRAP YOURSELVES IN--THEN HANG ON!
ONLY ONE SHOT AT THIS...

YOUR FOOLISH ATTEMPT TO BIND ME ONLY SERVES TO INCREASE MY ANGER, LITTLE ONE!
COME ON...
COME ON!
IT'S NOT SAFE HERE EITHER-- RUN!
THANK YOU!
I CARE NOT WHICH ORDER YOUR KIND DIES IN--ONLY THAT THOSE WHO IMPRISONED ME PERISH FIRST! YOU COULD BE SPARED FOR SOME TIME.
WHY DO YOU FIGHT ME?
HELP!
GOT YOU!
GOOD-- CIRCLE ME AROUND ITS NECK!
WHY DO YOU PERSIST?!
WHAT SET YOU AGAINST ME?!

I ONLY WANTED REVENGE! NOW I WILL DESTROY YOU!
OKAY, THAT'LL DO IT. BUZZ AROUND IN FRONT OF HIM--WE HAVE TO KEEP HIM ENRAGED.
DIE!
DIE!
GONNA HAVE TO MOVE FASTER!
KRAKK!
CRAKK!!
YOU DON'T KNOW MY POWER! YOU ARE A FOOL TO ENGAGE ME!
YOU ARE INSIGNIFICANT! YOUR DEATH WON'T EVEN BE NOTICED!
CLOSE ONE! KEEP HIM MOVING HIS ARMS--TIGHTENING THE CABLE AROUND HIS NECK!
KRAKK!
CRKKK!!


GOT YOU--!!
--IRK!
PTANGG!

SKRGGGOOM!!

SPLSH!!

SPLISH!
SPLOSH!
SPLASH!
SPLASH!
SPLASH!
SPLASH!
SPLOOSH!
CRAP.

I THINK THAT'S FOR US.
WOW.

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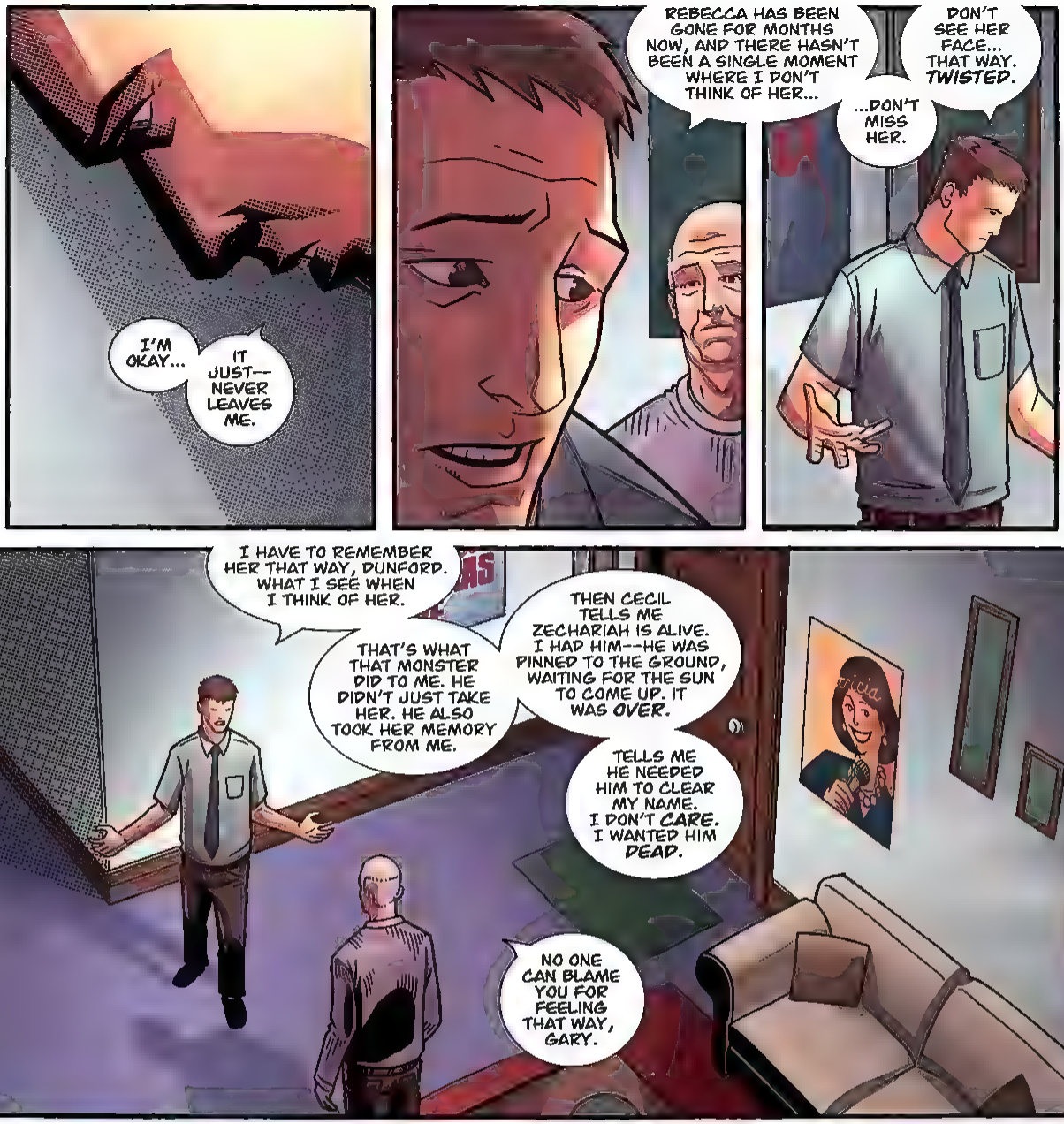
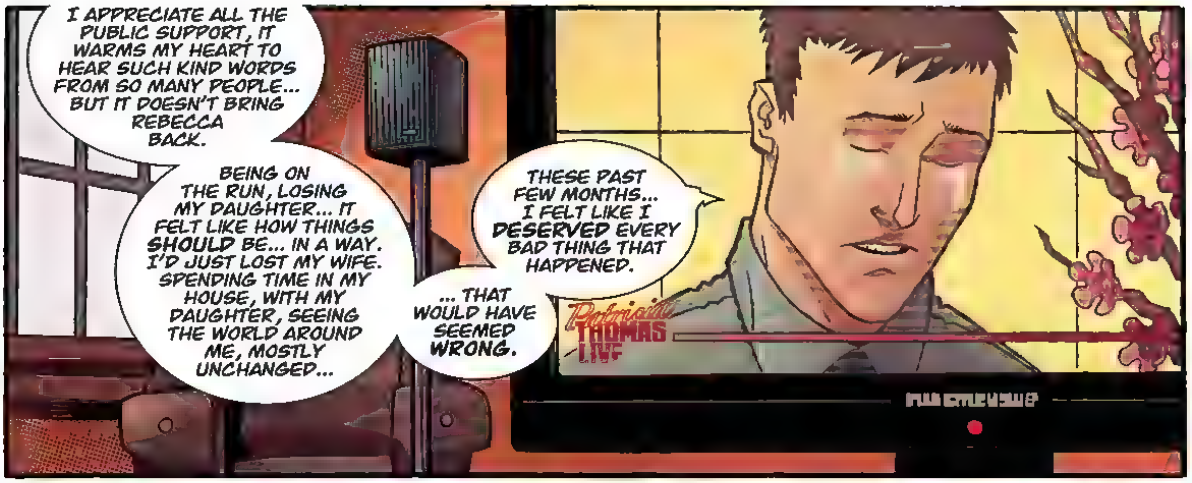
GOOD EVENING, AMERICA, AND WELCOME TO A VERY SPECIAL EDITION OF PATRICIA THOMAS LIVE. I'M YOUR HOST, PATRICIA THOMAS.
TONIGHT OUR GUEST WILL BE THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN HIMSELF, OUR VERY OWN GARY HAMPTON. HE'S HERE TO DISCUSS HIS HEARTBREAKING AND TRULY INSPIRING STORY.
WE'LL BE DISCUSSING THE RECENT TROUBLES WITH HIS COMPANY, HAMPTON INDUSTRIES, THE BRUTAL MURDER OF HIS WIFE, HIS WRONGFUL CONVICTION AND INCARCERATION FOR THAT CRIME AND EVERYTHING HE'S LIVED THROUGH ALL THE WAY UP TO LAST WEEK'S STUNNING BATTLE WITH THE MONSTER GORGG WHERE WOLF-MAN SAVED THE ENTIRE MANHATTAN ISLAND AND THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO CALL IT HOME... INCLUDING THIS HUMBLE REPORTER YOU SEE BEFORE YOU.
WE'LL BE BRINGING GARY OUT IN A MINUTE, BUT FIRST I'D LIKE TO REVIEW THE EVENTS OF HIS LIFE OVER THIS PAST YEAR SO THAT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU KNOW HIS AMAZING STORY...

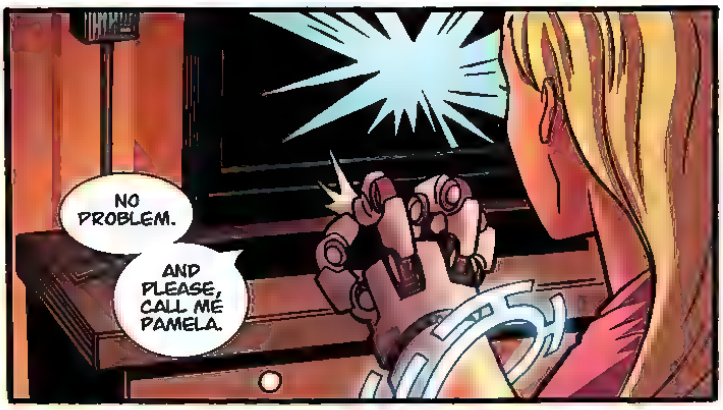
THANKS FOR BEING HERE FOR ME...
ARE YOU KIDDING? I'VE WATCHED THIS SHOW FOR YEARS, I USED TO HAVE A THING FOR PATRICIA... I COULDN'T NOT BE HERE.
I REMEMBER YOU TELLING ME ABOUT THAT. FUNNY.
STILL, THANKS. I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE SO NERVOUS. I'VE NEVER BEEN ON A SHOW LIKE THIS BEFORE. A FEW FINANCIAL SEGMENTS ON THE NEWS, SURE... BUT NEVER SOMETHING PEOPLE WATCH.
WELL, GET USED TO IT. YOU SAVED THE ENTIRE CITY. YOU'RE A BIG STAR NOW.
A FAR CRY FROM WHERE YOU WERE A FEW SHORT WEEKS AGO, RIGHT?
...
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T THINK.
GARY?


I'M OKAY...
IT JUST-- NEVER LEAVES ME.
REBECCA HAS BEEN GONE FOR MONTHS NOW, AND THERE HASN'T BEEN A SINGLE MOMENT WHERE I DON'T THINK OF HER...
...DON'T MISS HER.
DON'T SEE HER FACE... THAT WAY. TWISTED.
I HAVE TO REMEMBER HER THAT WAY, DUNFORD. WHAT I SEE WHEN I THINK OF HER.
THAT'S WHAT THAT MONSTER DID TO ME. HE DIDN'T JUST TAKE HER. HE ALSO TOOK HER MEMORY FROM ME.
THEN CECIL TELLS ME ZECHARIAH IS ALIVE. I HAD HIM--HE WAS PINNED TO THE GROUND, WAITING FOR THE SUN TO COME UP. IT WAS OVER.
TELLS ME HE NEEDED HIM TO CLEAR MY NAME. I DON'T CARE. I WANTED HIM DEAD.
NO ONE CAN BLAME YOU FOR FEELING THAT WAY, GARY.
CAN'T THINK ABOUT THIS NOW. I DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO DO THIS. CECIL SAID I SHOULD TO HELP PEOPLE ACCEPT ME AFTER BEING A PUBLIC FUGITIVE.
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO THIS...
YOU'RE ON IN FIVE, MISTER HAMPTON.

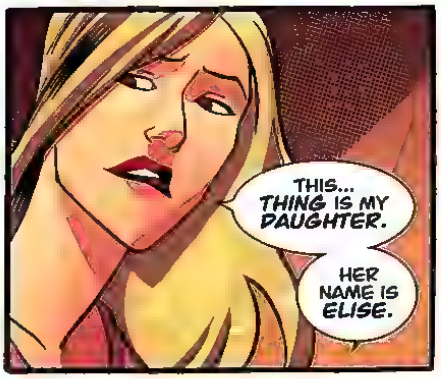

I APPRECIATE ALL THE PUBLIC SUPPORT, IT WARMS MY HEART TO HEAR SUCH KIND WORDS FROM SO MANY PEOPLE... BUT IT DOESN'T BRING REBECCA BACK.
BEING ON THE RUN, LOSING MY DAUGHTER... IT FELT LIKE HOW THINGS SHOULD BE... IN A WAY. I'D JUST LOST MY WIFE. SPENDING TIME IN MY HOUSE, WITH MY DAUGHTER, SEEING THE WORLD AROUND ME, MOSTLY UNCHANGED...
... THAT WOULD HAVE SEEMED WRONG.
THESE PAST FEW MONTHS... I FELT LIKE I DESERVED EVERY BAD THING THAT HAPPENED.
Patriotic THOMAS LIVE
NOW CAMERA

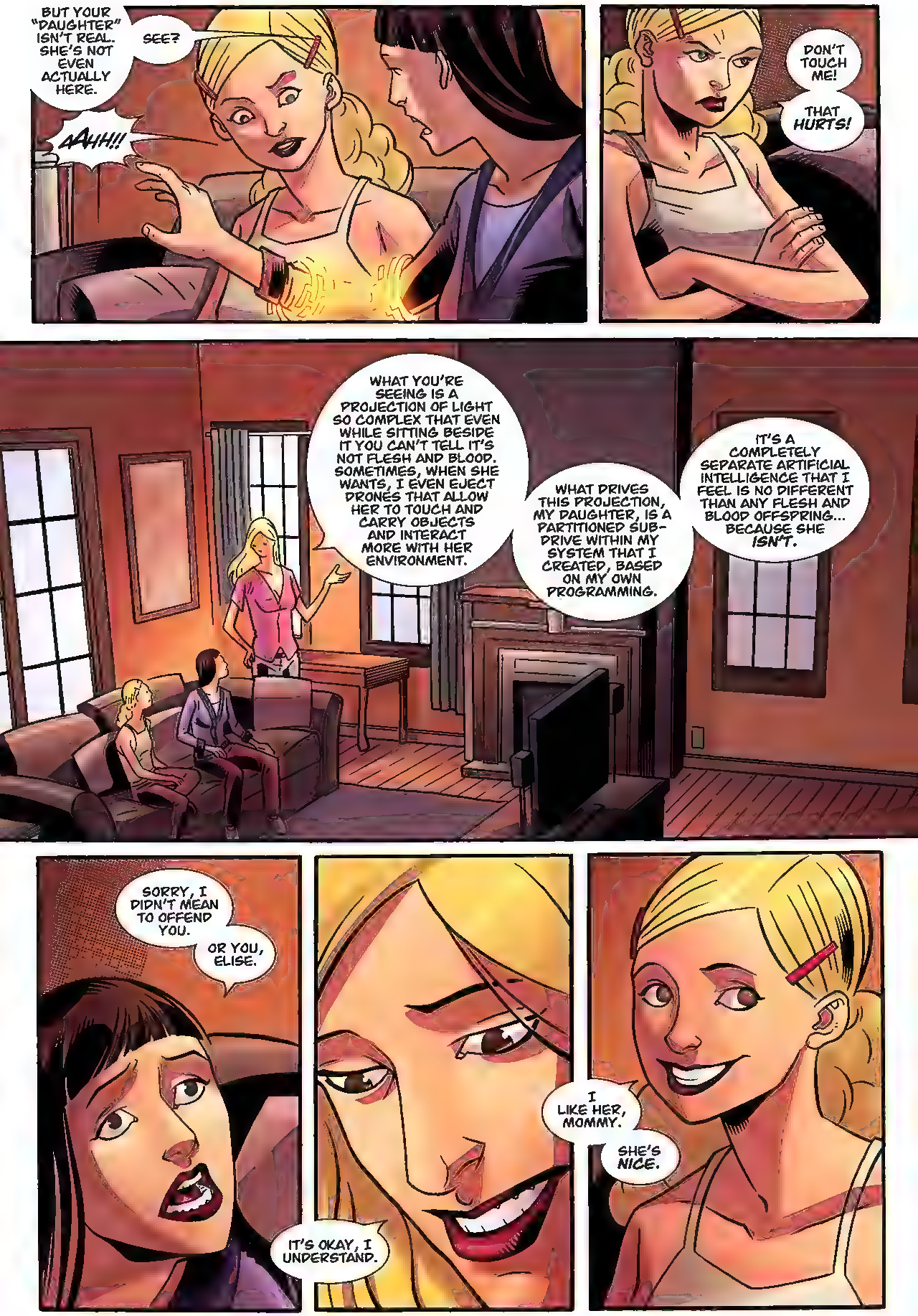
WHY ARE YOU SAD?
I'M SORRY, CHLOE. WE DON'T HAVE TO WATCH THIS IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.

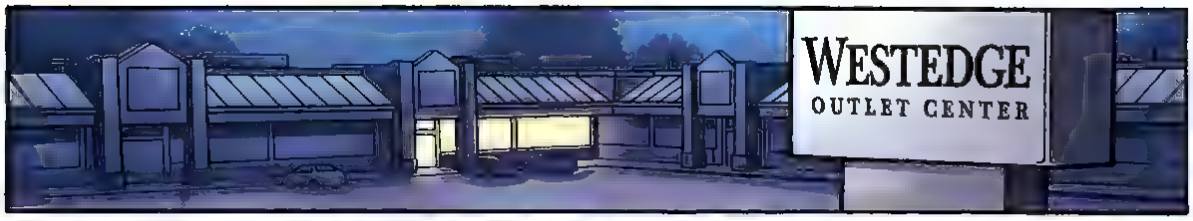
I DON'T KNOW WHY I WANTED TO WATCH THIS. I DON'T WANT TO SEE THAT MUCH PAIN ON MY DAD'S FACE.
PLEASE TURN IT OFF, MECHA-MAID.


NO PROBLEM.
AND PLEASE, CALL ME PAMELA.

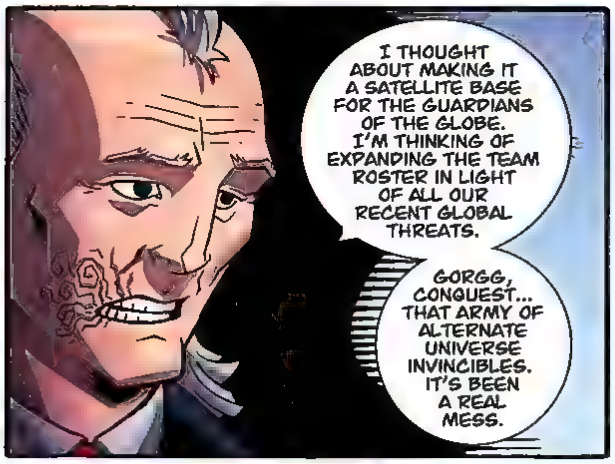
THANKS.
NOW, WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS THING AGAIN?

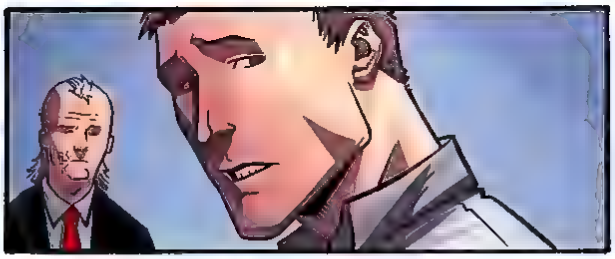

THIS... THING IS MY DAUGHTER.
HER NAME IS ELISE.

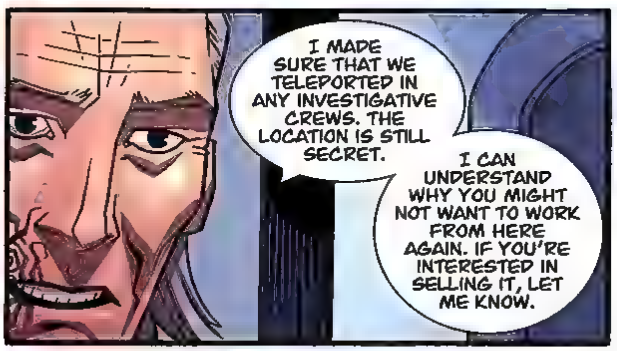

BUT YOUR "DAUGHTER" ISN'T REAL. SHE'S NOT EVEN ACTUALLY HERE.
SEE?
AAHH!!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
THAT HURTS!
WHAT YOU'RE SEEING IS A PROJECTION OF LIGHT SO COMPLEX THAT EVEN WHILE SITTING BESIDE IT YOU CAN'T TELL IT'S NOT FLESH AND BLOOD. SOMETIMES, WHEN SHE WANTS, I EVEN EJECT DRONES THAT ALLOW HER TO TOUCH AND CARRY OBJECTS AND INTERACT MORE WITH HER ENVIRONMENT.
WHAT DRIVES THIS PROJECTION, MY DAUGHTER, IS A PARTITIONED SUB-DRIVE WITHIN MY SYSTEM THAT I CREATED, BASED ON MY OWN PROGRAMMING.
IT'S A COMPLETELY SEPARATE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE THAT I FEEL IS NO DIFFERENT THAN ANY FLESH AND BLOOD OFFSPRING... BECAUSE SHE ISN'T.
SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO OFFEND YOU.
OR YOU, ELISE.
IT'S OKAY, I UNDERSTAND.
I LIKE HER, MOMMY.
SHE'S NICE.


WESTEDGE
OUTLET CENTER

I KNOW IT'S NOT IMPORTANT TO YOU, BUT I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT THE SHOW WENT WELL. YOU REALLY WON THEM OVER.
IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYONE IS BEHIND YOU NOW.
I DIDN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT EVERYTHING ON TV. I WASN'T PLANNING TO. PATRICIA THOMAS KNOWS HOW TO PUSH YOUR BUTTONS...
WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE?
I'M GIVING IT BACK.


I THOUGHT ABOUT MAKING IT A SATELLITE BASE FOR THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE. I'M THINKING OF EXPANDING THE TEAM ROSTER IN LIGHT OF ALL OUR RECENT GLOBAL THREATS.
GORGG, CONQUEST... THAT ARMY OF ALTERNATE UNIVERSE INVINCIBLES. IT'S BEEN A REAL MESS.

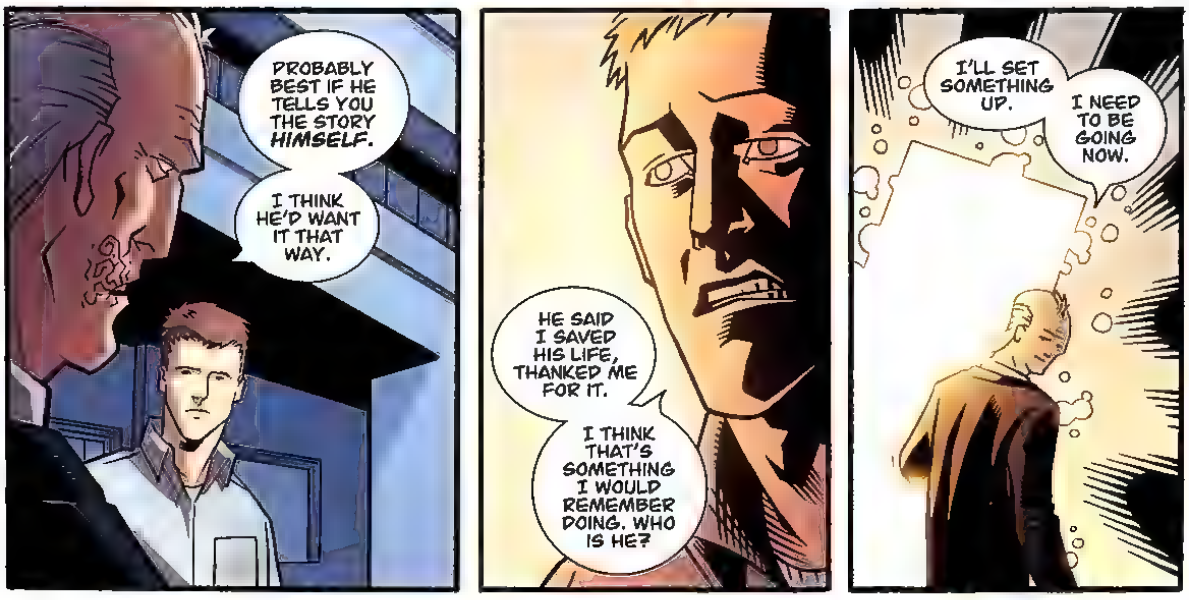



I MADE SURE THAT WE TELEPORTED IN ANY INVESTIGATIVE CREWS. THE LOCATION IS STILL SECRET.
I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU MIGHT NOT WANT TO WORK FROM HERE AGAIN. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN SELLING IT, LET ME KNOW.

NO. REBECCA HATED THIS PLACE... BUT I CAN'T GET RID OF IT.
IF I DON'T CARRY ON, HER DEATH IS MEANINGLESS. I NEED THIS PLACE.

UNDERSTOOD.
YOU SHOULD SEE THE SALVAGE OPERATION WE'VE GOT UNDERWAY IN THE HUDSON. THERE ARE PIECES OF GORGG IN THERE THE SIZE OF CITY BUSES.
AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS ALL OVER US ABOUT RETURNING STONEHENGE... EVEN THOUGH ALL THEY HAVE THERE NOW IS A GIANT CRATER. WHAT, ARE THEY GOING TO DROP THOSE ROCKS IN THE HOLE?
IT'S A MESS.

TELL ME ABOUT ZECHARIAH.
HE'S LOCKED DOWN IN OUR SUBTERRANEAN CELL BLOCK BELOW THE PENTAGON. HIS CELL IS AIR TIGHT. ONCE HE'S CONVICTED OF YOUR WIFE'S MURDER AND WHATEVER WE CAN PIN ON HIM FOR WHAT HE DID TO THE ACTIONEERS... HE'LL BE PUT TO DEATH.
WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE JUST LEFT HIM STAKED TO THE GROUND?
FORGIVE ME. I THOUGHT CLEARING YOUR NAME HELD A SLIVER OF IMPORTANCE.
NO. YOU'RE RIGHT. I UNDERSTAND.
TELL ME ABOUT THIS WEREWOLF WORKING FOR YOU. THE ONE WHO GAVE ME THE COMMUNICATOR.

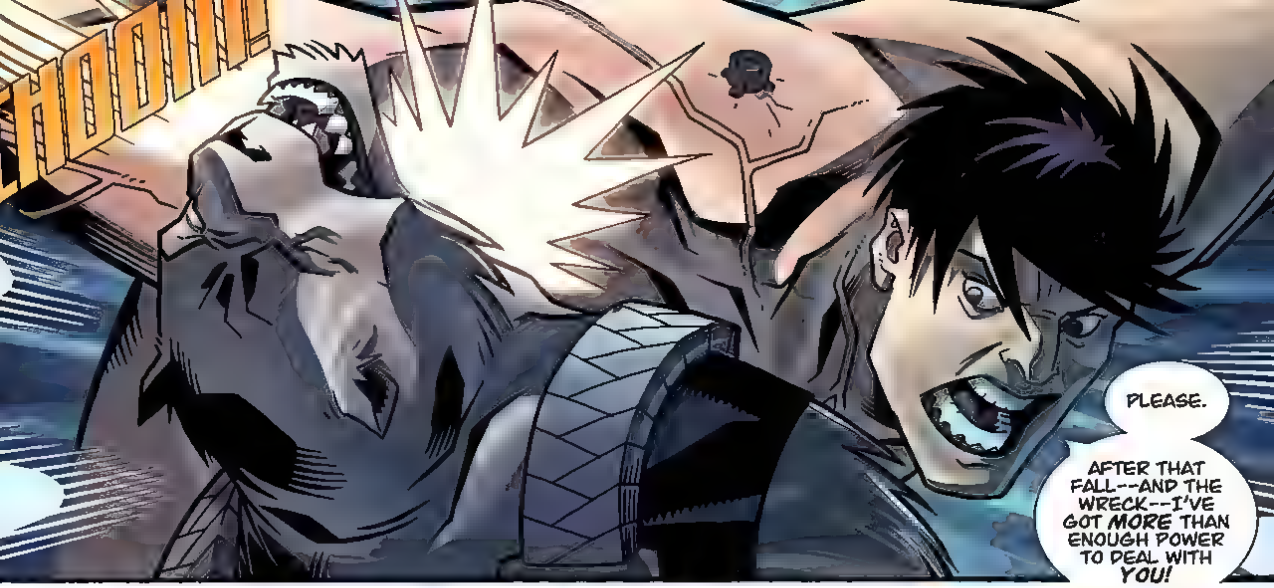

PROBABLY BEST IF HE TELLS YOU THE STORY HIMSELF.
I THINK HE'D WANT IT THAT WAY.
HE SAID I SAVED HIS LIFE, THANKED ME FOR IT.
I THINK THAT'S SOMETHING I WOULD REMEMBER DOING. WHO IS HE?
I'LL SET SOMETHING UP.
I NEED TO BE GOING NOW.

HEY! I GOT SOME KNOCKING OVER HERE!!
HURRY!
RZZZKKK!!
UH... JUST...
PLEASE, TAKE ME BACK TO PRISON.

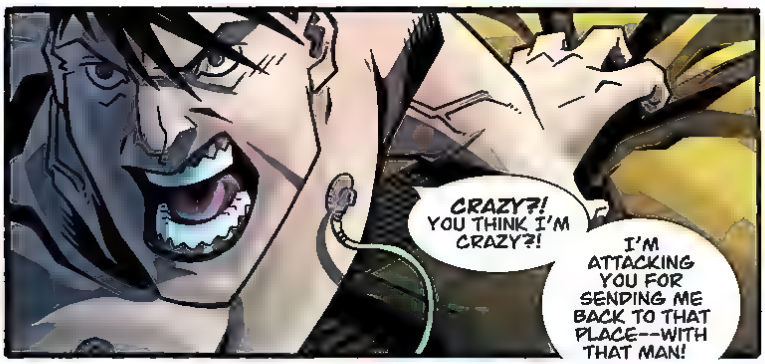
VROOM!
VRAKOOOM!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP THERE? BE MORE CAREFUL!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I DIDN'T WANT TO DO THIS! YOU MADE ME!
I'VE ONLY GOT MY LEARNER'S PERMIT! I CAN'T EVEN DRIVE YET! I TOLD YOU THIS WOULDN'T BE ANY FUN!!

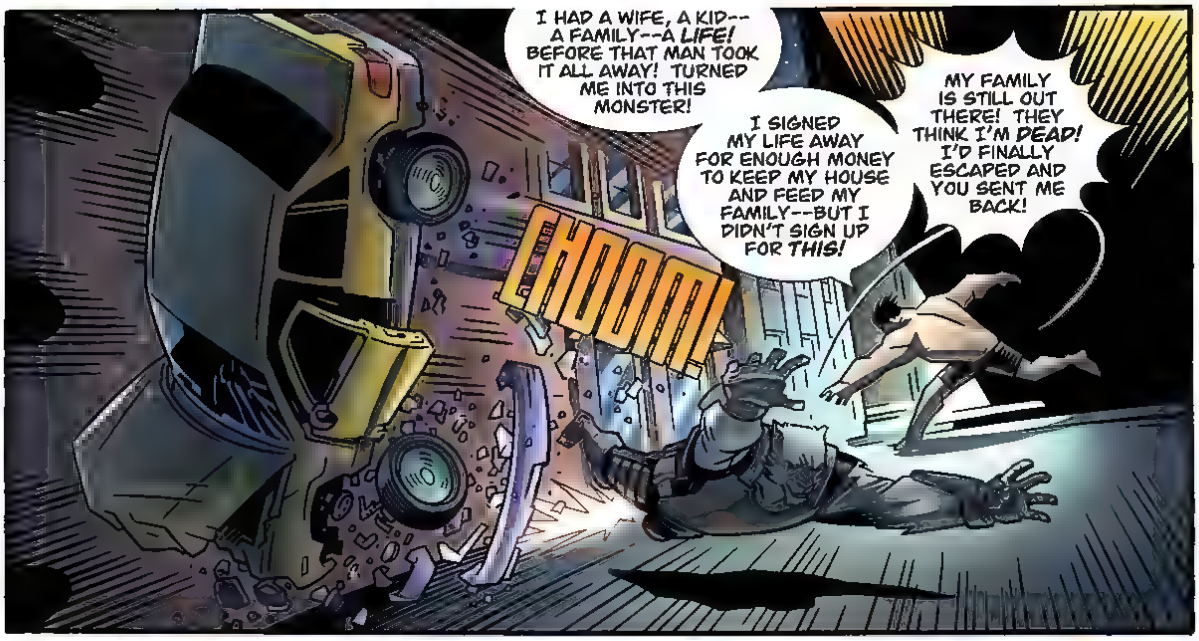
WELL... JUST SLOW IT DOWN A LITTLE UNTIL YOU GET THE FEEL OF IT.
I THOUGHT ALL THE ADJUSTMENTS MECHA-MAID DID WOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO DRIVE. SORRY.
IT'S A QUIET NIGHT-- I'M SURE WE'RE NOT GOING TO RUN INTO ANYTHING.
SKREEECH!
CAREFUL!!
SORRY. SHEESH!
I'M DOING MY BEST. MAYBE MECHA-MAID SHOULD BE YOUR DRIVER. IF SHE CAN TURN INTO A JET PACK, I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'D NEED A CAR ANYWAY.
SHE'S HELPED A GREAT DEAL. I CAN'T BELIEVE SOME OF THE THINGS SHE'S DONE WITH THIS CAR--IT'S AMAZING. BUT REALLY, I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG SHE'S GOING TO STAY.
SHE'S JUST STAYING WITH US WHILE SHE FIGURES THINGS OUT.
WHETHER I LIKE IT OR NOT, YOU HAVE POWERS NOW. THAT VAMPIRE BLOOD HAS REMAINED IN YOUR SYSTEM-- YOUR POWERS AREN'T GOING AWAY.
I'D RATHER HAVE YOU OUT HERE WITH ME-- THAN DOING WHATEVER IT IS YOU'D DO ON YOUR OWN.
WELL I DON'T--
AAAIIEEE!

CHLOE--
HIT THE
BUTTON!
LAUNCH
ME!
SHOOM!
AACK!

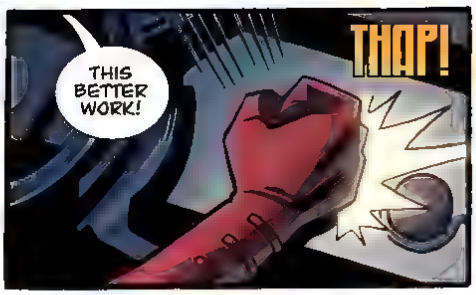

KOOM!
PLEASE.
AFTER THAT FALL--AND THE WRECK--I'VE GOT MORE THAN ENOUGH POWER TO DEAL WITH YOU!

HEY! I RECOGNIZE YOU!
YOU'RE THAT CRAZY GUY WHO WAS TRYING TO KILL THAT SCIENTIST!* WHAT'S YOUR DEAL? WHY ARE YOU ATTACKING ME NOW?
*SEE ISSUE 5.


CRAZY?! YOU THINK I'M CRAZY?!
I'M ATTACKING YOU FOR SENDING ME BACK TO THAT PLACE--WITH THAT MAN!


I HAD A WIFE, A KID--A FAMILY--A LIFE! BEFORE THAT MAN TOOK IT ALL AWAY! TURNED ME INTO THIS MONSTER!
I SIGNED MY LIFE AWAY FOR ENOUGH MONEY TO KEEP MY HOUSE AND FEED MY FAMILY--BUT I DIDN'T SIGN UP FOR THIS!
MY FAMILY IS STILL OUT THERE! THEY THINK I'M DEAD! I'D FINALLY ESCAPED AND YOU SENT ME BACK!
CHOOM!

DAD!
LOOK OUT!

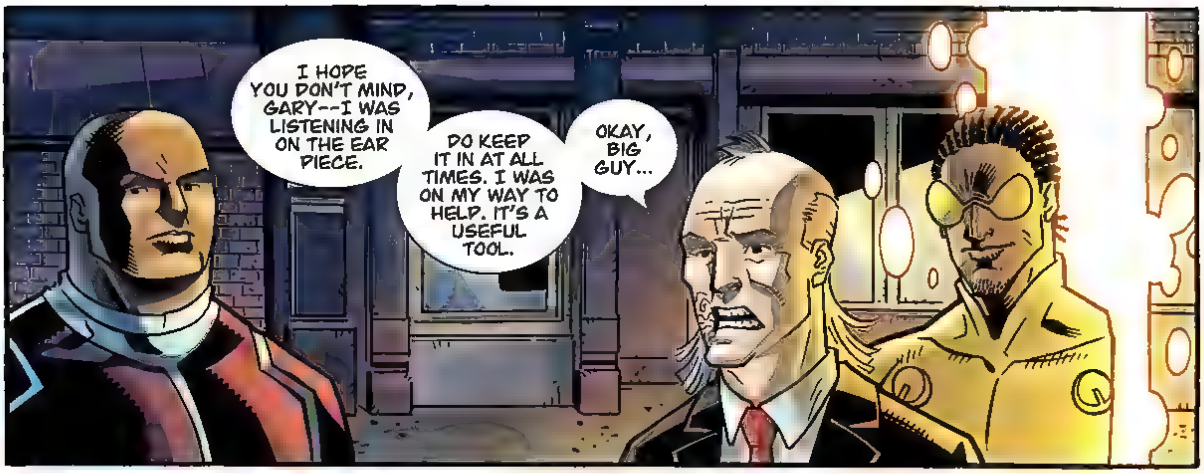

THAP!
THIS BETTER WORK!

EVEN IF YOUR STORY IS TRUE, AS I RECALL, THAT SCIENTIST WAS RUNNING FROM YOU. IF YOU ESCAPED, WHY'D YOU HANG AROUND AND TRY TO HURT HIM-- WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST GO AFTER YOUR FAMILY?
I HAVE TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE SAFE! I HAVE TO--
SWOOSH
LOOK, DAD!
HERE COMES TROUBLE!!

WRAKK!
WHOA!
WRAMM! WRAMM!
TAKE THAT, JERK!
NOBODY HURTS MY DAD!
WRAMM! WRAMM!
STOP!
WHAT? I'M... BEATING UP THE BAD GUY--
RIGHT?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW. THE GUY HAS SOME KIND OF STORY.
BUT JUST LOOK AT HIM-- PUNCHING HIM LIKE THAT ONLY MAKES HIM STRONGER.
OH.
CRAP.
KA-BOOM!
BACK OFF!
CHLOE!
BOOM!
I SWEAR-- IF YOU'VE HURT HER...
THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO HURT ME.
BELIEVE THAT.

I'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.
UHRRRRR
SHOOM!
EH?
I REALLY DON'T THINK THAT'LL WORK EITHER.
WE SHOULD TALK TO THIS GUY. FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.
IF I CAN'T HIT YOU MAYBE I CAN JUST CUT YOU UP!
LET'S SEE HOW YOU FARE AGAINST VAMPIRE GIRL!
I HAVE TO ADMIT: IF THIS IS YOUR DAUGHTER AND YOU'RE WILLING TO TALK...
I'M LESS INCLINED TO BLINDLY ATTACK YOU.
GO WITH THAT FEELING.

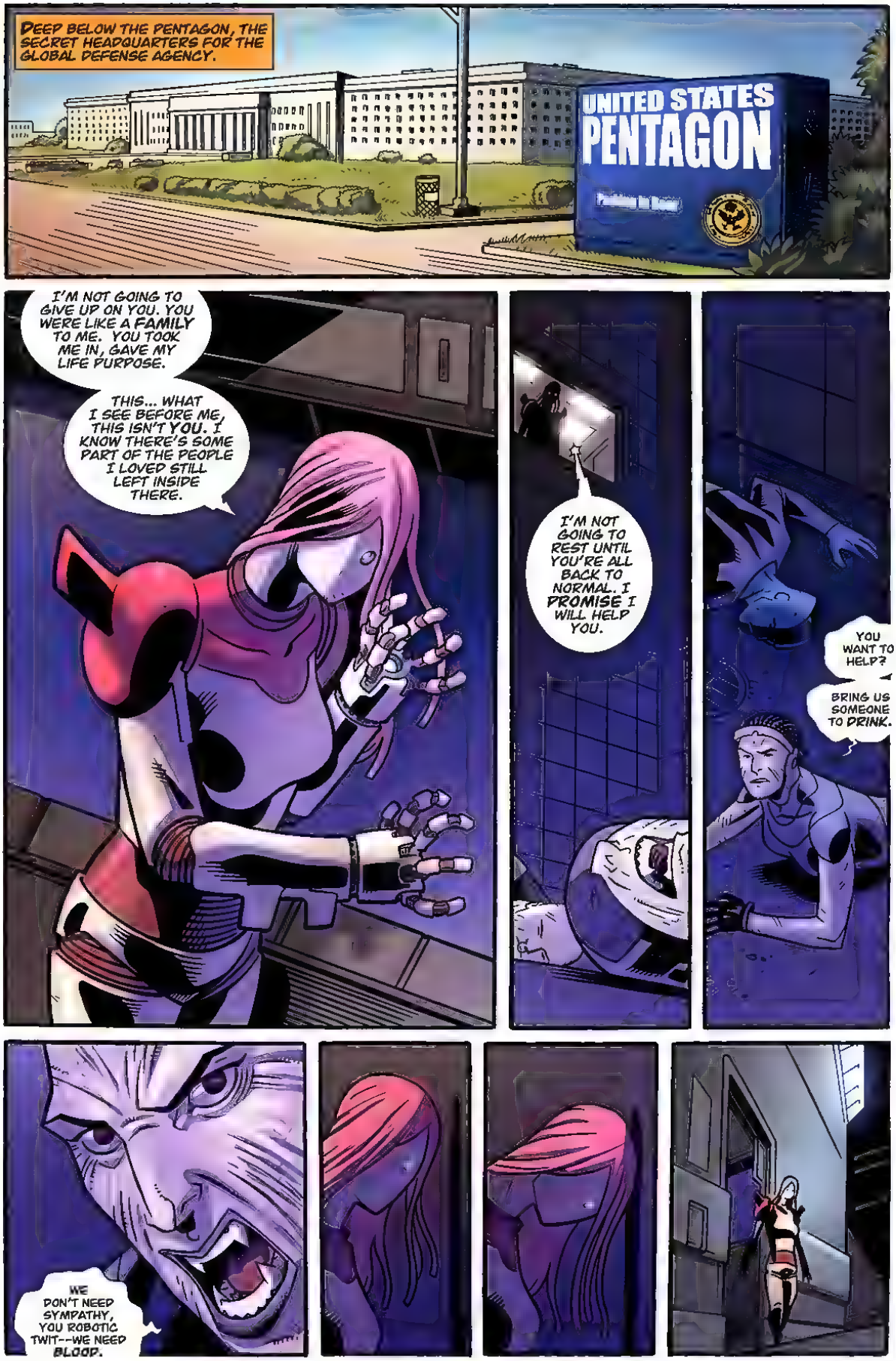

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, GARY--I WAS LISTENING IN ON THE EAR PIECE.
DO KEEP IT IN AT ALL TIMES. I WAS ON MY WAY TO HELP. IT'S A USEFUL TOOL.
OKAY, BIG GUY...

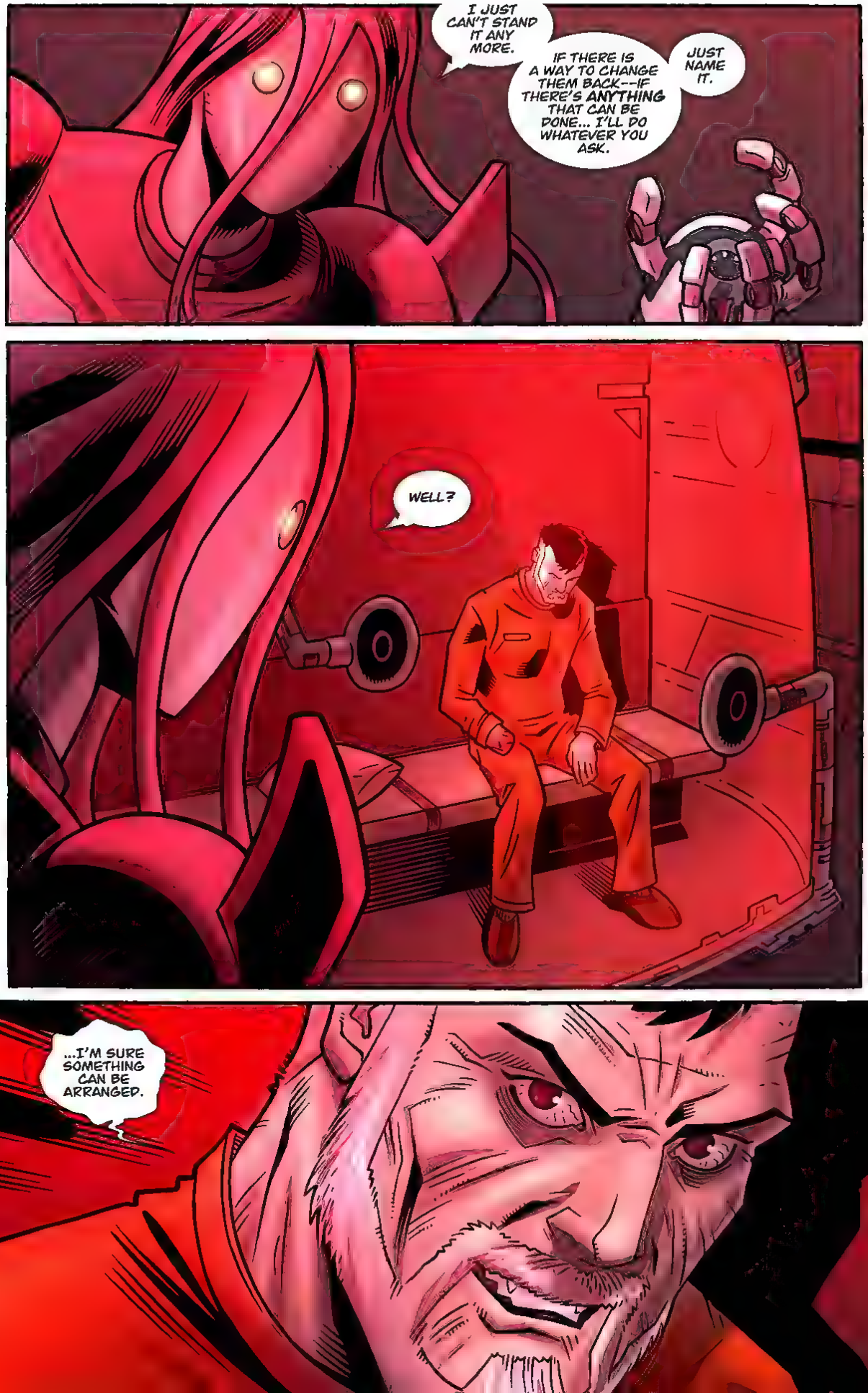
...WE CAN DO A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT THINGS. TALKING THINGS OVER WOULD BE IDEAL, BUT IF YOU PREFER, THESE TWO SUPERHEROES I BROUGHT WITH ME CAN TRY TO BEAT THE SNOT OUT OF YOU BEFORE WE DO THAT.
THAT WOULD BE MESSY. SINCE YOU'RE ALREADY PRETTY CALM, IF YOU APPROVE, I'D LIKE TO JUST MOVE INTO THE DISCUSSION PART OF THE EVENING.
I HEAR YOU'RE A FAMILY MAN? I SYMPATHIZE WITH THAT. AS DOES WOLF-MAN, I BELIEVE.

I HAVE NO INTEREST IN FIGHTING PEOPLE FOR NO REASON. HE SENT ME BACK TO THE COMPOUND--I WAS MAD, I'M SORRY TO HAVE CAUSED THIS.
IT ACCOMPLISHES NOTHING...

GOOD TO HEAR YOU TALK LIKE THAT. COME WITH ME... LET'S ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING.
WE CAN TAKE IT FROM HERE, WOLF-MAN.

SUITS ME.
WE SHOULD PROBABLY BE GETTING BACK. I'M SURE MECHA-MAID'S WONDERING WHY WE HAVEN'T REPORTED IN.
SHE PROBABLY WON'T BE TOO HAPPY ABOUT THE CAR.


DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON, THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS FOR THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY.
UNITED STATES PENTAGON
I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP ON YOU. YOU WERE LIKE A FAMILY TO ME. YOU TOOK ME IN, GAVE MY LIFE PURPOSE.
THIS... WHAT I SEE BEFORE ME, THIS ISN'T YOU. I KNOW THERE'S SOME PART OF THE PEOPLE I LOVED STILL LEFT INSIDE THERE.
I'M NOT GOING TO REST UNTIL YOU'RE ALL BACK TO NORMAL. I PROMISE I WILL HELP YOU.
YOU WANT TO HELP?
BRING US SOMEONE TO DRINK.
WE DON'T NEED SYMPATHY, YOU ROBOTIC TWIT--WE NEED BLOOD.


I JUST CAN'T STAND IT ANY MORE.
IF THERE IS A WAY TO CHANGE THEM BACK--IF THERE'S ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE... I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU ASK.
JUST NAME IT.
WELL?
...I'M SURE SOMETHING CAN BE ARRANGED.

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ROBERT KIRKMAN
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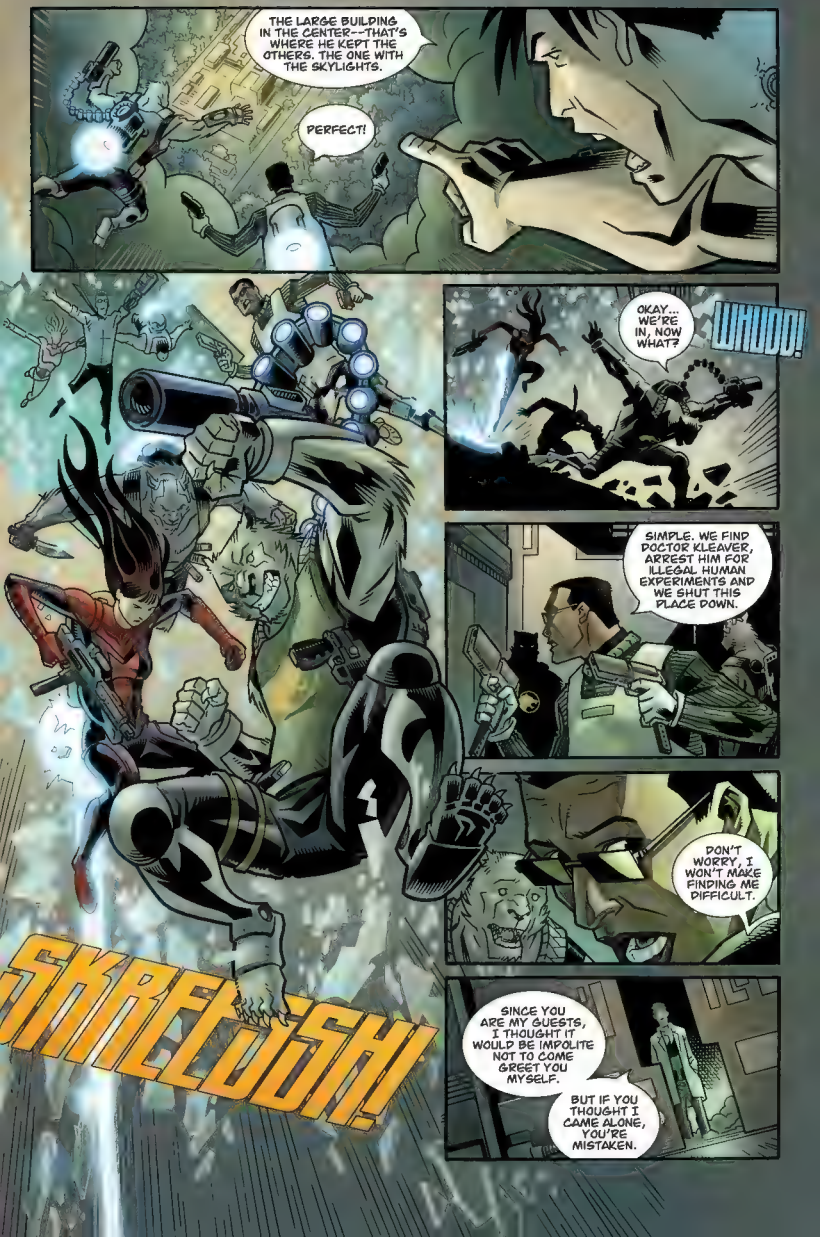
International Rights Representative: Christine Jansen (christine@offoystudio.com)

THE WORST PART IS THAT I VOLUNTEERED FOR THIS. I WAS YOUNG, LUCY HAD JUST HAD THE BABY... WE WERE COMPLETELY BROKE... DESPERATE.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO--AND THEN I WAS APPROACHED BY A MAN IN A SOUP KITCHEN. THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY PREYING ON THE DESPERATE.
THE MAN SAID HE COULD CHANGE MY LIFE. HOW COULD I NOT SIGN UP?
HOW COULD I NOT THROW MY LIFE AWAY? I HAD A STARVING BABY AT HOME.
I WENT INTO THIS WITH MY EYES OPEN--I WAS TOLD EVERY SINGLE THING THEY WERE GOING TO DO TO ME, AWARE OF EVERY SINGLE EXPERIMENT.
I SIGNED MY LIFE AWAY.
I'M FINE WITH WHAT I'VE BECOME, I DON'T BLAME THEM FOR THIS--BUT SOLDIERTECH NEVER EXPLAINED TO ME THAT I WAS STUCK WORKING FOR THEM FOR LIFE--NEVER TOLD ME I COULDN'T LEAVE.
I DIDN'T DO THIS FOR MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER SO THAT I COULD LOSE THEM.
I WANTED OUT--AND ALL DOCTOR KLEAVER WOULD TELL ME WAS "NO." THEY THINK THEY OWN ME.
LUCY AND CHELSEA ARE GONE--I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE. I LEARNED THAT KLEAVER HAD ME DECLARED DEAD--THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW I'M ALIVE.
THESE PEOPLE RUINED MY LIFE. I HAVE TO MAKE THEM PAY. I HAVE TO SHUT THEM DOWN.
I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR HELPING ME DO THIS.

I BELIEVE I SPEAK FOR ALL OF US HERE WHEN I SAY:
"DON'T MENTION IT, IT'S OUR PLEASURE."

OKAY, PEOPLE! THIS IS OUR STOP!
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN DO THIS?
I'VE GOT IT COVERED, DAD--DON'T WORRY.
I'LL CATCH HER IF THE JETPACK DOESN'T WORK.


THE LARGE BUILDING IN THE CENTER---THAT'S WHERE HE KEPT THE OTHERS. THE ONE WITH THE SKYLIGHTS.
PERFECT!
OKAY. WE'RE IN. NOW WHAT?
WHUDD!
SIMPLE. WE FIND DOCTOR KLEAVER, ARREST HIM FOR ILLEGAL HUMAN EXPERIMENTS AND WE SHUT THIS PLACE DOWN.
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T MAKE FINDING ME DIFFICULT.
SKREEOOSH!
SINCE YOU ARE MY GUESTS, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE IMPOLITE NOT TO COME GREET YOU MYSELF.
BUT IF YOU THOUGHT I CAME ALONE, YOU'RE MISTAKEN.

YOUR FRIEND IMPACT THERE WAS NUMBER SEVEN.
HE WAS THE MIDPOINT IN OUR EXPERIMENTS.
MEET EIGHT THROUGH THIRTEEN.

SNIFF! SNIFF!
JACOBSON, IS THAT--?!
BE SILENT!
SNIFF! SNIFF!
FATHER!
CHILD, GET INSIDE NOW!
FATHER, I'M SCARED.
YOU SHOULD BE...
...FOR WHAT COMES TONIGHT, COULD MEAN OUR SALVATION...
...OR THE DEATH OF US ALL.

HE HAS COME!
THE ELDER!
QUIET! SHOW RESPECT FOR YOUR MASTER.
IT IS TIME.
YOUR VISIT IS UNEXPECTED BUT WELCOME. WHAT WILL YOU HAVE US DO, SIRE?
CALL FORTH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

PENTAGON
THIS--- THIS ISN'T POSSIBLE.
NO ALARM WAS TRIPPED, THERE'S NO SIGN OF ESCAPE, THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
SHOULD WE OPEN IT? MAKE SURE THIS ISN'T A TRICK.
IF THIS IS A TRICK, OPENING IT IS EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTS. WE HAVE TO GO TELL DIRECTOR STEPMAN. HE'LL WANT TO KNOW AT ONCE.

THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY, JERK! YOU AIN'T MAKING IT OUT OF HERE ALIVE!
ARE YOU INSANE?! WE'RE HERE TO RESCUE YOU--ALL OF YOU!

SERIOUSLY, WHAT'S YOUR STAKE IN THIS?!
YOU ACTUALLY LIKE THIS GUY?
A JOB'S A JOB--TIMES ARE TOUGH. WE'RE NOT ABOUT TO LET YOU COME IN AND WRECK A GOOD THING!
STOP!
YOU WERE ALL THE SUBJECTS OF ILLEGAL BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS TESTING. THE GOVERNMENT OF THIS COUNTRY HAS A PROPRIETARY STAKE IN ALL ILLEGAL WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED WITHIN ITS BORDERS.
THEREFORE, WE WILL BE CONDUCTING A HOSTILE TAKE-OVER OF THIS COMPANY.
IN SHORT, YOU ALL WORK FOR ME NOW.
YOU CAN'T DO THIS! ALL THIS WORK--MY ENTIRE LIFE SPENT ON THIS. WHAT HAVE I DONE THAT'S ILLEGAL?!
JUST BECAUSE YOU PAID THESE MEN, YOU CAN'T KEEP THEM AGAINST THEIR WILL. YOU DIDN'T BUY THEM.
BUT DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL BE WELL COMPENSATED FOR YOUR TECHNOLOGY...
OF COURSE, YOU'RE GOING TO JAIL FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE--SO ALL THAT MONEY WILL GO TO THESE MEN, WHO SO VALIANTLY ALLOWED YOU TO DEVELOP THIS TECHNOLOGY AT THE RISK OF THEIR LIVES.
HAPPY ENDING, RIGHT?

NOPE-- NOT YET?
HOW ABOUT NOW? IMPACT, WE WERE ABLE TO FIND YOUR FAMILY.
LUCY! OH MY GOD!
AND IS THIS CHELSEA?!
I WORK IN A LOT OF GRAY AREAS-- IT'S JUST PART OF WHAT I DO. SADLY, IT'S A LARGE PART OF WHAT I DO...
...IT'S GOOD TO HAVE ONE FIRMLY IN THE "GOOD" COLUMN EVERY NOW AND THEN.
I HEAR YOU.
THE PLANE WILL BE BY TO PICK YOU UP SHORTLY. NO NEED TO WASTE MORE OF THE TAXPAYERS' MONEY.
TELEPORTATION ISN'T CHEAP.
TELL THE BIG GUYS TO WAIT AROUND.
I CAN'T GIVE THEM THEIR MONEY UNTIL THEY SIGN CONTRACTS. SOMEONE WILL BE BY SHORTLY.

OKAY, I GIVE UP. WHO ARE YOU?
MY NEW CODE NAME IS GRAY WOLF. BUT I IMAGINE THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU MEANT.
RIGHT. WHEN WE MET YOU SAID I SAVED YOUR LIFE. YET-- I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER MEETING YOU.

"I DIDN'T LOOK LIKE THIS BEFORE I MET YOU. THAT ENOUGH OF A HINT?"

THE OLD MAN... ON THE ROOF...

I WAS A CIA AGENT, RETIRED. CANCER WAS BAD. I WAS GIVEN SIX MONTHS TO LIVE TWO YEARS AGO. I KNEW I WAS ON BORROWED TIME.

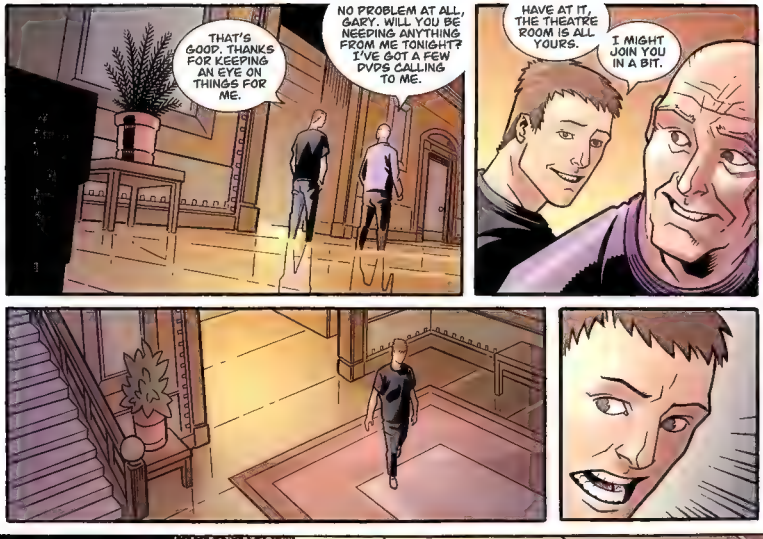
I BARELY REMEMBER THAT NIGHT--IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I TURNED. I ONLY REMEMBER ATTACKING YOU.

I KNOW ABOUT THE MOON RAGE, HOW YOU LOSE CONTROL. I THINK A PART OF YOU SAW I WAS SICK, MAYBE YOU SMELLED IT ON ME, KNEW THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO SAVE MY LIFE.
CECIL FOUND ME AFTER I WAS BROUGHT IN... HELPED ME FIGURE OUT WHAT I WAS. HE KNOWS MORE ABOUT US THAN HE LETS ON. DON'T KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT THAT, HONESTLY. HE TOLD ME EVERYTHING I NEEDED TO KNOW ABOUT MYSELF.
SUDDENLY, I'M BACK IN THE GAME, WORKING FOR THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY...
I'VE NEVER BEEN HAPPIER.
THANK YOU.
NO, THANK YOU... I THOUGHT I'D KILLED YOU.
IT WEIGHED ON ME... I LOOKED FOR NEWS OF YOUR DEATH. I DIDN'T REMEMBER ENOUGH TO TRY AND FIND THE PROOF MYSELF. I NEVER KNEW WHAT HAPPENED.
I'M GLAD TO KNOW YOU'RE OKAY. BETTER THAN OKAY.
BOY, MECHA-MAID SURE LEFT IN A HURRY.
WHO CARES? HOW DID I DO? I DID GOOD, DIDN'T I? YOU'RE GOING TO LET ME KEEP DOING THIS, AREN'T YOU?
YOU DID GOOD. THIS WAS A GOOD TRIAL RUN, HAVING ALL THOSE OTHERS AROUND--BUT I SEE YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF. ANOTHER YEAR AND YOU WON'T NEED MY PERMISSION.
YOU'LL STILL NEED TO FINISH SCHOOL.
CECIL SAID HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET ME A TUTOR FOR THAT. SOME WOMAN HE KNOWS...

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, I LET MYSELF IN.
BETTER THAN YOU BEING SPOTTED HANGING AROUND OUTSIDE. SORRY I'M LATE, MISSION RAN LONG.
WHERE IS IT? I WAS TOLD IT WOULD BE DONE BY NOW.
IT'S FINISHED. JUST ANOTHER ADJUSTMENT AND IT CAN BE ATTACHED.
READY.
COME HERE.

DO YOU APPROVE?
I DO.
PRIMARILY A WEAPON--NOT GOING TO BE DOING A LOT OF SHOPPING WITH THIS HAND, BUT THEN, I PLAN ON DOING LITTLE ELSE THAN GETTING MY REVENGE AGAINST THOSE WHO TRIED TO KILL ME.
SPEAKING OF WHICH--
YOU'RE WORKING WITH MY DEAR FRIEND GARY HAMPTON--AREN'T YOU? AND AS I RECALL, YOU HATE ME FOR WHAT I DID TO YOUR FRIENDS...
...CAN YOU SEE WHY I'D BE SKEPTICAL OF YOUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP ME ALL OF A SUDDEN?
I'M WORKING WITH WOLF-MAN BECAUSE I HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO. THE ACTIONEERS WERE MY LIFE--THEY WERE EVERYTHING TO ME.
IF YOU CAN RESTORE THEM, BRING THEM BACK TO THE WAY THEY WERE--I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN.
...BUT ONCE YOU ARE DONE, I CAN'T PROMISE I WON'T STILL COME AFTER YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID.
FAIR ENOUGH.
WOULD BE FAR FROM THE ONLY ONE OUT THERE WITH ILL FEELINGS TOWARD ME.
IT'LL TAKE TIME, WHAT YOU'RE ASKING. I'LL BE IN TOUCH.

REALLY, DAD. I'M FAR TOO OLD TO BE TUCKED IN.
IT'S RARE THAT YOU'RE GOING TO BED BEFORE ME, I'M TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THAT. I'M NOT READING YOU A STORY OR ANYTHING. I'M JUST SAYING GOOD NIGHT.
THAT OKAY?
THAT'S OKAY.
I LOVE YOU, DAD.
I LOVE YOU TOO, CHLOE.
GOOD NIGHT.
FEELS GOOD TO HAVE EVERYTHING BACK TO... ALMOST NORMAL.
EVERYTHING OKAY HERE TODAY?
A FEW MORE REPORTERS LOOKING TO INTERVIEW YOU. NOTHING CRAZY. THE CROWDS HAVE DIED DOWN--IT'S EASIER TO KEEP THEM OFF THE ESTATE NOW.


THAT'S GOOD. THANKS FOR KEEPING AN EYE ON THINGS FOR ME.
NO PROBLEM AT ALL, GARY. WILL YOU BE NEEDING ANYTHING FROM ME TONIGHT? I'VE GOT A FEW DVDS CALLING TO ME.
HAVE AT IT, THE THEATRE ROOM IS ALL YOURS.
I MIGHT JOIN YOU IN A BIT.

MECHA-MAID, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
I--I CAN SMELL *HIM* ON YOU.
GARY...

ZECHARIAH ESCAPED FROM HIS HOLDING CELL WITH MY ASSISTANCE, AND I'VE PROVIDED HIM WITH A NEW HAND.
HE CLAIMS IT'S GOING TO TAKE HIM SOME TIME TO RESTORE THE ACTIONEERS TO HUMAN FORM, BUT I BELIEVE HE TRUSTS THAT I AM WORKING WITH HIM AT THE MOMENT.
THEN SO FAR EVERYTHING IS WORKING OUT.
I DON'T CARE WHAT IT COULD DO TO MY PUBLIC IMAGE-- TURNING PEOPLE AGAINST ME AGAIN. A CELL IS TOO GOOD FOR THAT BASTARD.
HE'S GOING TO DIE FOR WHAT HE'S DONE.

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LEGACY
PART TWO OF FIVE
ROBERT KIRKMAN
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JASON HOWARD — penciler, inker
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Printed by World Color Press, Inc, St-Romuald, QC, Canada. 3/31/10.

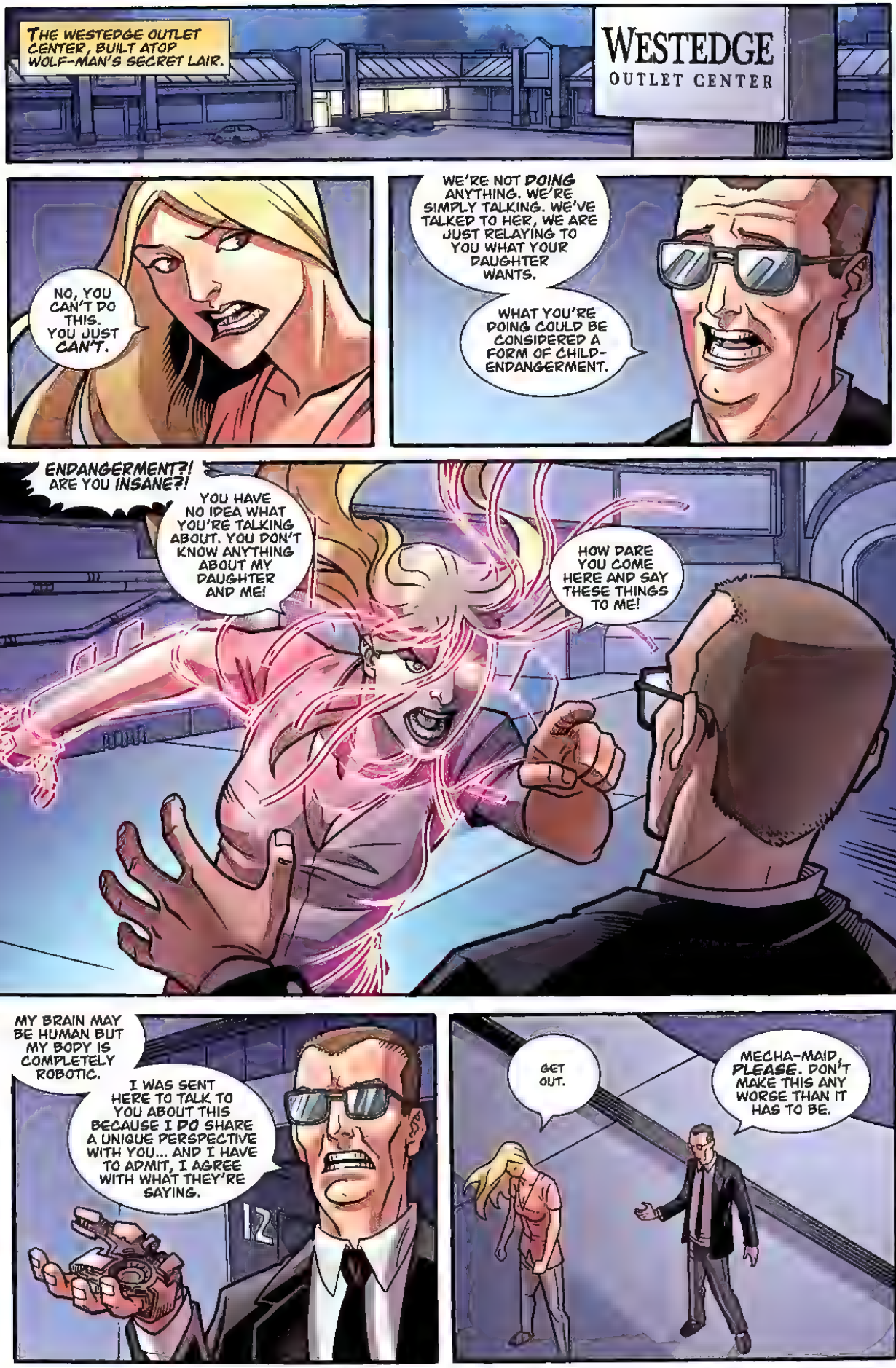
THE TIME OF THE GATHERING IS UPON US!
LONG HAVE YOU WAITED FOR THIS MOMENT. GENERATIONS OF YOU HAVE PASSED, HOPING TO LIVE TO EXPERIENCE THE GATHERING, TO NO AVAIL. YOU WILL NOT SUFFER THIS FATE.
REJOICE!
REJOICE FOR WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO ENDURE!
NOW IS A TIME OF GREAT CHANGE AND UPHEAVAL. THE FUTURE OF OUR PEOPLE IS CALLED INTO QUESTION. THESE ARE VERY DARK TIMES FOR OUR KIND.
THE ACTIONS WE NOW TAKE WILL ENSURE OUR CONTINUED SURVIVAL FOR GENERATIONS TO COME. WE WILL BRING ABOUT A SECOND GOLDEN AGE--A NEW BEGINNING--A REBIRTH!
GONE WILL BE THE DAYS OF CLINGING TO SHADOWS, EXISTING ON THE FRINGE OF MAN'S WORLD.
NOW IS OUR TIME!
AT THIS PRECISE MOMENT, IT BEGINS. KNOW THIS MOMENT WELL, FOR IT MEANS THE END OF THE OLD WAYS AND THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW.
THIS MOMENT IS NOW PASSED...

...SO BEGINS THE GATHERING!

NEW YORK CITY.
SOMEONE'S MADE A MESS OF THIS PLACE.
GLOBAL TEK
WOLF 2
HEY, CONSTRUCT! DID YOU MISS ME?
WOLF-MAN?! YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME! YOU AGAIN?! ARE YOU STALKING ME?
SERIOUSLY!
YOU SEND ME TO PRISON, THEN GET SENT TO THAT SAME PRISON. WE ESCAPE TOGETHER, AND WORK FOR THE FACE TOGETHER, UNTIL HE DIED... AND NOW THIS?!
AND LET ME GUESS...
--YOU WERE NEVER REALLY A BAD GUY, RIGHT?
SOMEONE'S BEEN WATCHING THE NEWS.
OH, AND DIDN'T YOU HEAR? THE FACE IS BACK IN PRISON.
BE SURE TO SAY "HI" TO HIM FOR ME!
KRANG!

IN THE CAR! I TOLD YOU TO STAY IN THE CAR!
VOF! VOF! VOF!
BUT YOU DIDN'T ACTUALLY THINK THAT I WOULD, DID YOU?
BE HONEST, DAD...
I HAD HOPED.
"DAD?" OH, HOW CUTE... YOU CAN DIE TOGETHER!
KRUKK!
OH, COME ON, CONSTRUCT-- YOU'RE ABOVE THIS. YOU'RE A GENIUS--LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO BUILD.
I HAVE TO GET SUPPLIES SOMEHOW. THIS STUFF ISN'T CHEAP!
YOU GOING TO TALK HER EARS OFF OR STOP HER FROM ROBBING THIS PLACE?
VAMPIRE GIRL! DON'T!

SHUNK!
WHAT ARE YOU-- ACK!
SHNKKK!
THRAKK!
...
=HEH.=
STAY IN THE CAR, HE SAYS.


THE WESTEDGE OUTLET CENTER, BUILT ATOP WOLF-MAN'S SECRET LAIR.
WESTEDGE
OUTLET CENTER
NO, YOU CAN'T DO THIS. YOU JUST CAN'T.
WE'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING. WE'RE SIMPLY TALKING. WE'VE TALKED TO HER, WE ARE JUST RELAYING TO YOU WHAT YOUR DAUGHTER WANTS.
WHAT YOU'RE DOING COULD BE CONSIDERED A FORM OF CHILD-ENDANGERMENT.
ENDANGERMENT?! ARE YOU INSANE?!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MY DAUGHTER AND ME!
HOW DARE YOU COME HERE AND SAY THESE THINGS TO ME!
MY BRAIN MAY BE HUMAN BUT MY BODY IS COMPLETELY ROBOTIC.
I WAS SENT HERE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THIS BECAUSE I DO SHARE A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE WITH YOU... AND I HAVE TO ADMIT, I AGREE WITH WHAT THEY'RE SAYING.
GET OUT.
MECHA-MAID, PLEASE. DON'T MAKE THIS ANY WORSE THAN IT HAS TO BE.

I SAID GET OUT!
THIS ISN'T GOING TO HELP THE SITUATION, PLEASE LISTEN TO ME.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
MECHA-MAID-- CALM DOWN.
THEY'RE TRYING TO TAKE MY DAUGHTER AWAY.
THEY'RE SAYING I'M PUTTING HER IN DANGER.
NOW HOLD ON. NOBODY IS TRYING TO TAKE HER AWAY. BUT WE'VE SPOKEN TO ELISE AND SHE'S TOLD US HOW UNHAPPY SHE IS.
SHE'S AN INDEPENDENT PROGRAM, CREATED BY YOU. A VIRTUAL DAUGHTER, BUT A DAUGHTER IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD. SHE HAS A CONSCIOUSNESS, AND YET YOU TURN HER OFF CONSTANTLY. YOU JUST SHUT HER DOWN WHENEVER YOU FEEL LIKE IT.
ON TOP OF THAT, YOU HOUSE HER PROGRAMMING WITHIN YOURSELF WHILE CONSTANTLY PUTTING YOURSELF, AND BY EXTENSION, HER, IN DANGEROUS SITUATIONS.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. I'M PROTECTING HER!
CHLOE, GO UPSTAIRS. DONALD... LET ME TALK TO HER.

I KNOW HOW IT IS--TO FEEL LIKE YOUR CHILD IS TURNING AGAINST YOU. BELIEVE ME, I'VE BEEN THERE.
YOU HAVE TO LET THEM GO AT A CERTAIN POINT. THAT'S PART OF THE PROCESS. YOU THINK I WANT CHLOE OUT THERE RISKING HER LIFE WITH ME?
BUT SHE'S GOOD, BETTER THAN I GIVE HER CREDIT FOR. SHE CAN HANDLE HERSELF.
BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. ELISE--SHE'S A PART OF ME.
I CAN'T LET HER GO. ESPECIALLY NOT BECAUSE THEY SAY SO!
I KNOW YOU'RE ANGRY AT THEM FOR TRYING TO INTERFERE IN YOUR LIFE--BUT LOOK AT IT THIS WAY. THEY'RE TREATING ELISE LIKE A BIOLOGICAL CHILD--NOT A MACHINE.
THAT HAS TO COUNT FOR SOMETHING.
IT'S HIM.
NO...
DONALD? TRUST ME--HE'S NOT OUT TO GET YOU.
IT'S ZECHARIAH. HE'S CONTACTING ME.
IT'S TIME.
LET'S GO!

HANG BACK--I DON'T WANT HIM TO KNOW YOU'RE HERE.
YOU'RE LATE.
STOP STALLING. THE ACTIONEERS--YOU AGREED TO MAKE THEM HUMAN AGAIN IF I HELPED YOU ESCAPE.
TELL ME HOW. YOU'VE WASTED ENOUGH OF MY TIME.
I'VE BEEN GATHERING THE ITEMS NECESSARY FOR A REVERSION--IT'S A COMPLICATED PROCESS, MUCH MORE DIFFICULT THAN TURNING. YOU HAVE TO TRUST ME.
I NEED MORE TIME--AND HELP. I CAME HERE TO ASK YOU TO RELEASE THE ACTIONEERS. I COULD USE THEM TO GAIN THE FINAL ITEMS NEEDED IN THE PROCESS.
IT WOULD CERTAINLY SPEED THINGS UP.

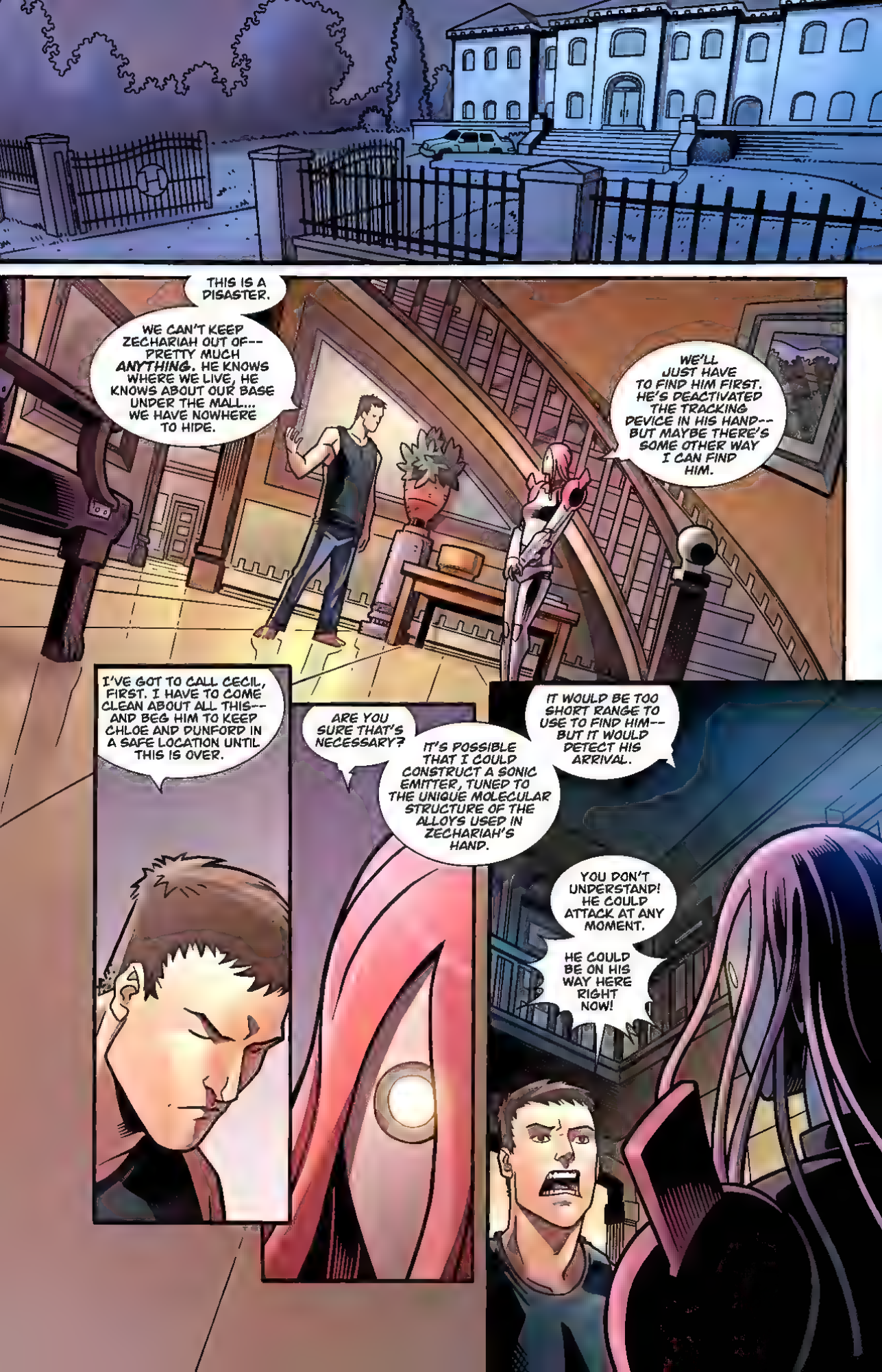
NO--IT'S A TRICK! THIS HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH!
I AGREE. I WOULD NEVER RELEASE THE ACTIONEERS WHILE THEY'RE STILL UNDER YOUR CONTROL!
WOLF-MAN--FORGIVE ME IF I'M NOT SURPRISED IN THE LEAST.
SHRONK!
YOU'VE SKATED BY UNSCATHED--YOUR EVIL HAS GONE UNPUNISHED--
NO MORE!
OH, PLEASE!
DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF BECAUSE I UNDERESTIMATED YOU LAST TIME. YOU AND YOUR NEW ROBOT GIRLFRIEND DON'T STAND A CHANCE.
THRONK!

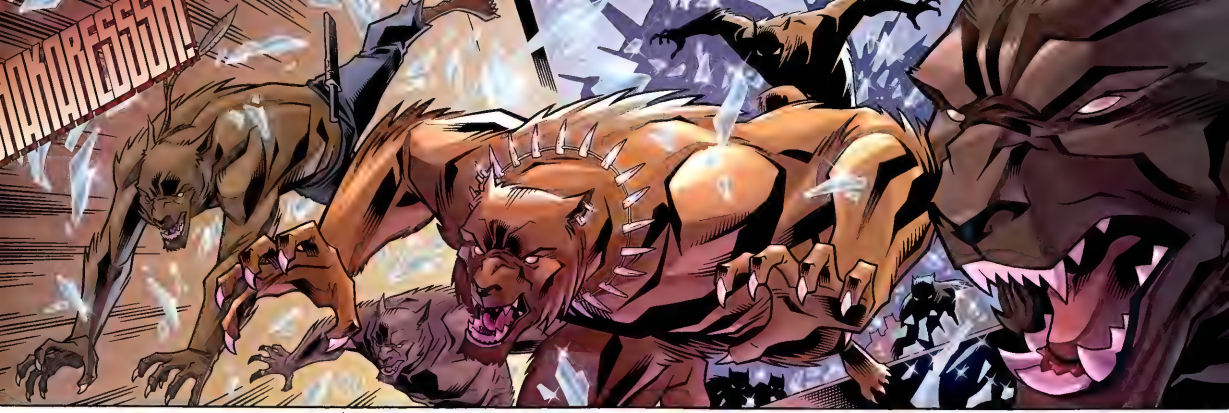
WE'LL SEE!
WRAKK!
YOUR TIME IN A CELL IS OVER! YOU DON'T GET TO ROT, YOU DON'T GET TO LIVE--NOT AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
YOU AND ME, ZECHARIAH--THIS ENDS TONIGHT!
OH, PLEASE...
THROKK!
YOU THINK I COULDN'T SEE THROUGH THIS LITTLE PLAN? I ALWAYS KNEW SHE WAS WORKING WITH YOU.
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU KNOW!
DON'T YOU?

NOW-- ACTIVATE THE FAIL-SAFE NOW!
SKRKK!
I'VE ALREADY ACTIVATED IT...
TWICE.
I'M SUPPOSED TO HAVE A FEW THOUSAND VOLTS OF ELECTRICITY PUMPING THROUGH MY BODY RIGHT NOW, AREN'T I?
I MAY NOT BE CAPABLE OF BUILDING SOMETHING THIS ADVANCED--BUT IT'S WELL WITHIN MY MEANS TO REMOVE ANY SURPRISES YOU LEFT FOR ME!
SHOOM!
WROKK!
IT DOESN'T MATTER! THIS THING DOESN'T GIVE YOU AN ADVANTAGE!
YOU DON'T HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST BOTH OF US!
WROKK!

NOW IS NOT THE TIME.
BRAKKU! BRAKKU! BRAKKU!
SVAASH!
HE'S TOO FAST!
THERE WILL BE A TIME AND A PLACE FOR THIS FIGHT. THIS VISIT WAS MERELY TO THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME ESCAPE AND PROVIDING ME WITH THIS SPECTACULAR NEW APPENDAGE.
MUCH APPRECIATED.
NO!
THIS IS OVER WHEN I SAY IT IS!
WRAMM!

NO!
MECHA-MAID!
I'M ON IT!
VOOSH!
DAMN IT! HE COULD BE ANYWHERE!
I'M READING OVER TWENTY-THOUSAND HEAT SIGNATURES IN A TWO MILE RADIUS AROUND US THAT COULD BE A SMALL BAT.
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO...


THIS IS A DISASTER.
WE CAN'T KEEP ZECHARIAH OUT OF-- PRETTY MUCH ANYTHING. HE KNOWS WHERE WE LIVE, HE KNOWS ABOUT OUR BASE UNDER THE MALL... WE HAVE NOWHERE TO HIDE.
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND HIM FIRST. HE'S DEACTIVATED THE TRACKING DEVICE IN HIS HAND-- BUT MAYBE THERE'S SOME OTHER WAY I CAN FIND HIM.
I'VE GOT TO CALL CECIL, FIRST. I HAVE TO COME CLEAN ABOUT ALL THIS-- AND BEG HIM TO KEEP CHLOE AND DUNFORD IN A SAFE LOCATION UNTIL THIS IS OVER.
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S NECESSARY?
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT I COULD CONSTRUCT A SONIC EMITTER, TUNED TO THE UNIQUE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF THE ALLOYS USED IN ZECHARIAH'S HAND.
IT WOULD BE TOO SHORT RANGE TO USE TO FIND HIM-- BUT IT WOULD DETECT HIS ARRIVAL.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! HE COULD ATTACK AT ANY MOMENT.
HE COULD BE ON HIS WAY HERE RIGHT NOW!

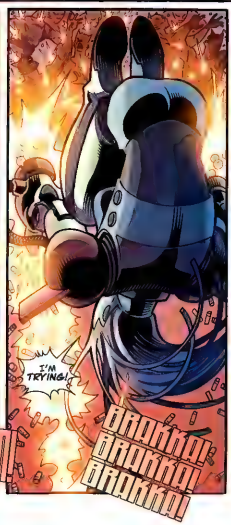

NAKARESSSH!

THUD!

ELDER BROOD--YOU HAVE BEEN MARKED!
YOU AND ALL WHO STAND WITH YOU--WILL DIE!

NOT WITHOUT A FIGHT!
THRAKK!

GET CHLOE OUT OF THERE! HURRY!
WRAMM!


I'M TRYING!
BRAKKA! BRAKKA! BRAKKA!

WHAT IS--?!

SLASH!!
NO.

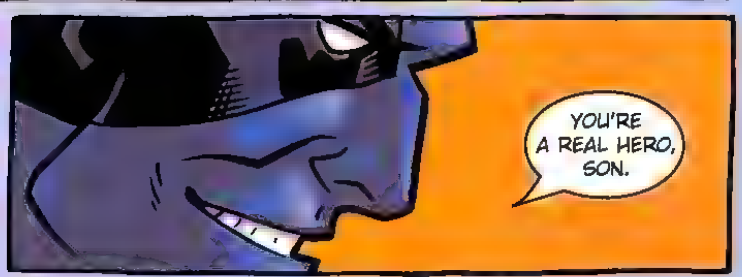
I WAS THERE. TOO FAR AWAY TO DO ANYTHING, BUT I SAW IT ALL.
A RED ASSASSIN SOMEHOW FREQ-JUMPED DIRECTLY INTO THE CITADEL. HIS EXCELLENCY WAS SECONDS AWAY FROM DEATH.
THE REST OF HIS GUARD DETAIL WAS EITHER TOO SURPRISED OR TOO SLOW TO HELP.
KRAKK!
BUT CADE IS ON ANOTHER LEVEL. HE TOOK OUT THE ASSASSIN BEFORE MOST EVEN REALIZED WHAT WAS HAPPENING...
CODE BLUE
BIRTH OF A HERO
PART 1 OF 4
STORY & ART BY JASON HOWARD

...IT WAS AMAZING.
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THE REDS USED A FREQUENCY JUMP TO ATTACK RIGHT HERE, RIGHT IN THE CITADEL.
YEAH, THAT PART IS BEING KEPT OUT OF THE PUBLIC. BUT THE ARMISTICE IS BROKEN FOR SURE NOW.
OPEN WAR IS COMING.
SO, THE GENERAL THINKS THAT CADE IS THE ONE WE NEED FOR THIS?
HE IS CONVINCED.
AND YOU?
VACATION'S OVER, SOLDIER.
ELYN, I WISH I COULD SAY IT WAS GOOD TO SEE YOU.
SORRY, CADE. MISSION PREP IN ONE HOUR.

YOU *READY* FOR THIS, SON?
YES, SIR. GET IN. RECON. GET OUT. PIECE OF CAKE.

THAT'S IT. NO ENEMY CONTACT. WE JUST JUMPED A LARGE QUANTITY OF BUSTED EQUIPMENT TO THE NORTH OF YOUR TARGET. IT'S GOING TO LOOK TO THE REDS LIKE A FAILED TROOP TRANSPORT. THAT AREA WILL HAVE THEIR ATTENTION AND GIVE YOU SOME SPACE TO MOVE. COMPLETE YOUR MISSION QUICKLY, THEN LAY LOW UNTIL WE CALL YOU BACK.

A JUMP SPACE WILL OPEN NEAR YOU IN TWO DAYS. IT'S KEYED TO YOUR BIOLOGY SO IT DOESN'T MATTER *WHERE* YOU ARE, BUT ONCE IT OPENS GET THROUGH QUICK. YOU'LL ONLY HAVE A FEW SECONDS.


YOU'RE A REAL HERO, SON.

GOOD LUCK, CADE.

SEE YOU SOON.

VVA-SHOOOOOM!
REPORT.
JUMP SUCCESSFUL.
GOOD.
TEK.
THAT GIVES US TWO DAYS TO END THIS WAR!
CONTINUED...

THE ASTOUNDING
WOLF-MAN
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LEGACY
PART THREE OF FIVE
ROBERT KIRKMAN
JASON HOWARD
FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA

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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN #23. May 2010. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2134 Allston Way, 2nd Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704.

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Printed by World Color Press, Inc. St-Romuald, QC, Canada. 5/12/10.

DUNFORD!

NO, MY FRIEND... NO.
NOT AGAIN, NOT--
BRAKKA! BRAKKA!

SVAQSH!
WHY ARE YOU ATTACKING US?!
WHAT HAVE WE DONE?!
I'M SORRY, WOLF-MAN-- FOR I KNEW YOU TO BE HONORABLE WHEN YOU AVENGED MY CHILD'S DEATH...
...BUT YOU HAVE BEEN MARKED BY THE ELDER, AND SO YOU MUST DIE.
ARRGH!
WRAM!
THE ELDER?!
WHY WOULD THE ELDER WANT ME DEAD?!
WHY?!
KROOM!
I DO NOT KNOW, NOR DID I CARE TO ASK.
HE IS THE ELDER, HE IS NOT TO BE QUESTIONED. HE COMMANDS AND WE OBEY.
THAT IS THE WAY OF THINGS.
KROK!

I'M COMING, DAD!
SVAOSH!
SERIOUSLY. THE. WHAT. HELL?
SHUKK!
THIS IS TOO DANGEROUS! I WANT YOU OUT OF HERE. NOW!
GIVE IT UP, DAD! I'M NOT LEAVING YOU!
SHOKK!
I CAN HANDLE THIS-- MECHA-MAID, GET CHLOE OUT OF HERE!
KRAK!
I'M TRYING! I CAN'T GET TO HER!
THERE'S JUST TOO MANY OF THEM!!
BRAKK! BRAKK! BRAKK!

CECIL SENDS HIS REGARDS!
BRAKKA!
BRAKKA!
BRAKKA!

THAT BACKFIRED! SHUT IT DOWN!
SHUT IT DOWN NOW!

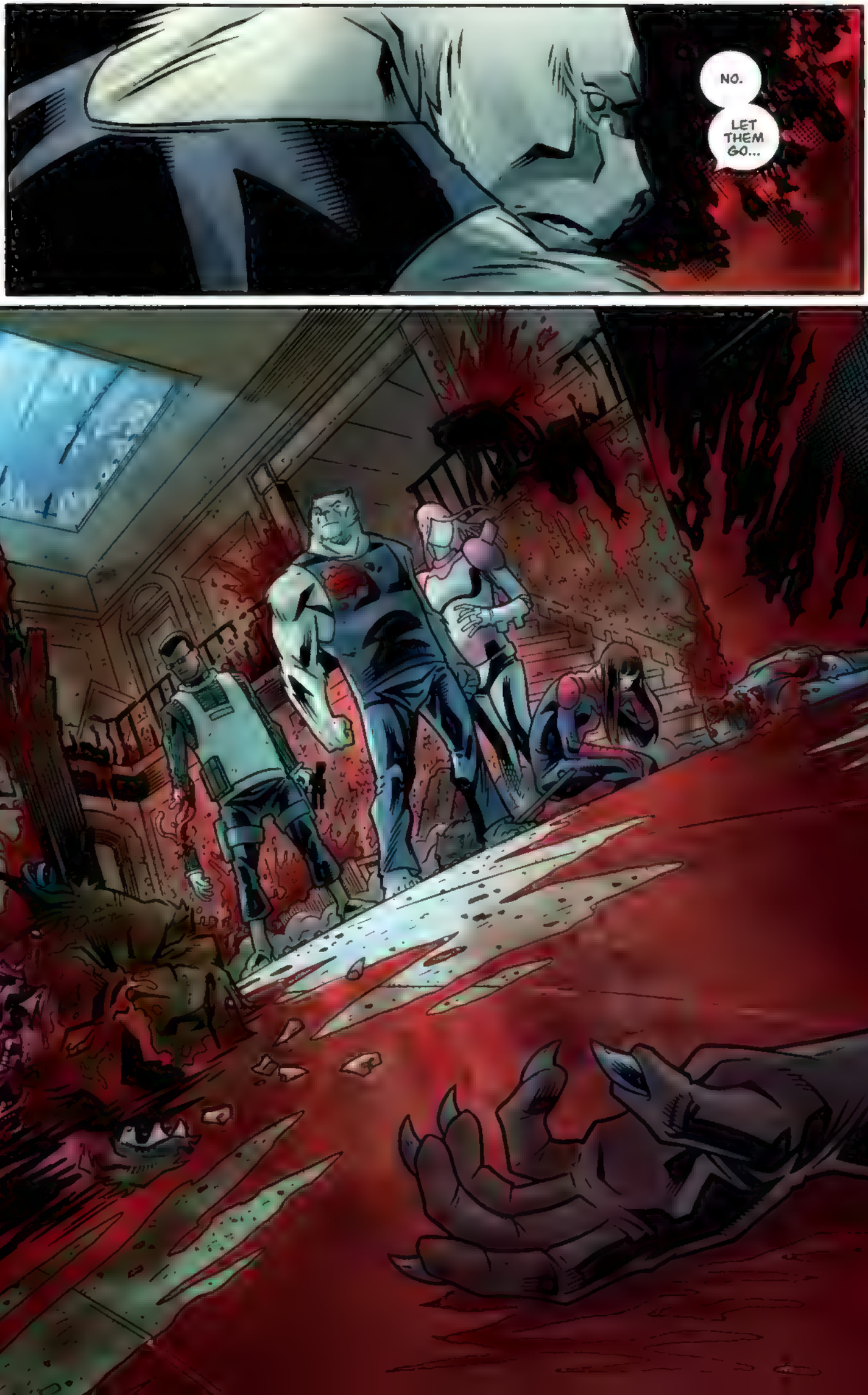
AARRGH!
ANY CLUE WHAT THIS IS ABOUT?
NONE WHATSOEVER.

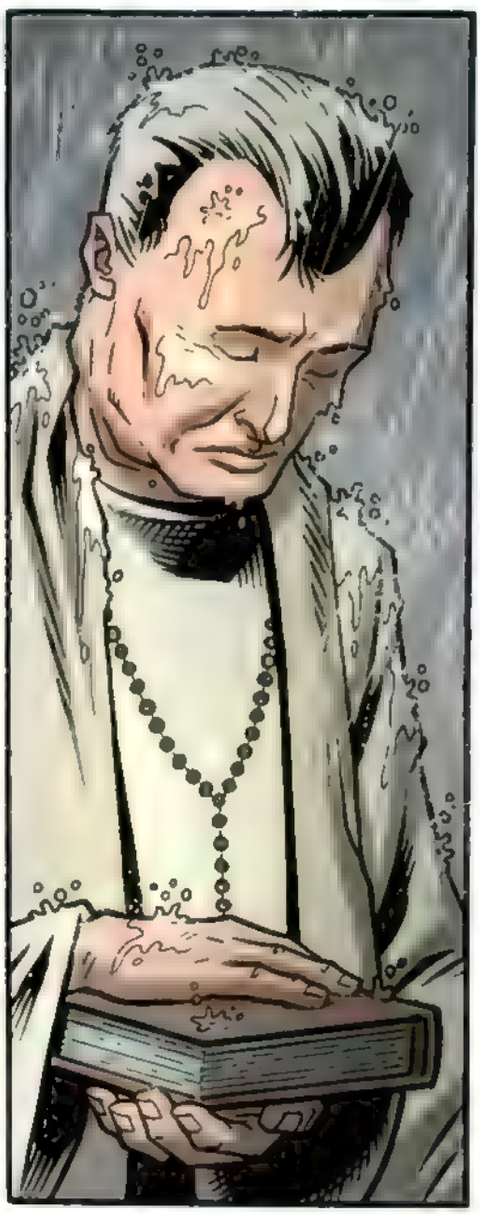
THROKK!
UFF!
DUN--
AAAGH!
PRAKKT. PRAKKT. PRAKKT!
NO, NOT YOU-- IT'S TOO MUCH--
--TOO MUCH.
VAMPIRE GIRL-- LOOK OUT!
SKRAGG!
CHLOE! MOVE!
HUNTER, GET HER OUT OF THERE!
I'M TRYING--
ACKK!
SVOSSH!
BLAM!
THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM!
TOO MANY!

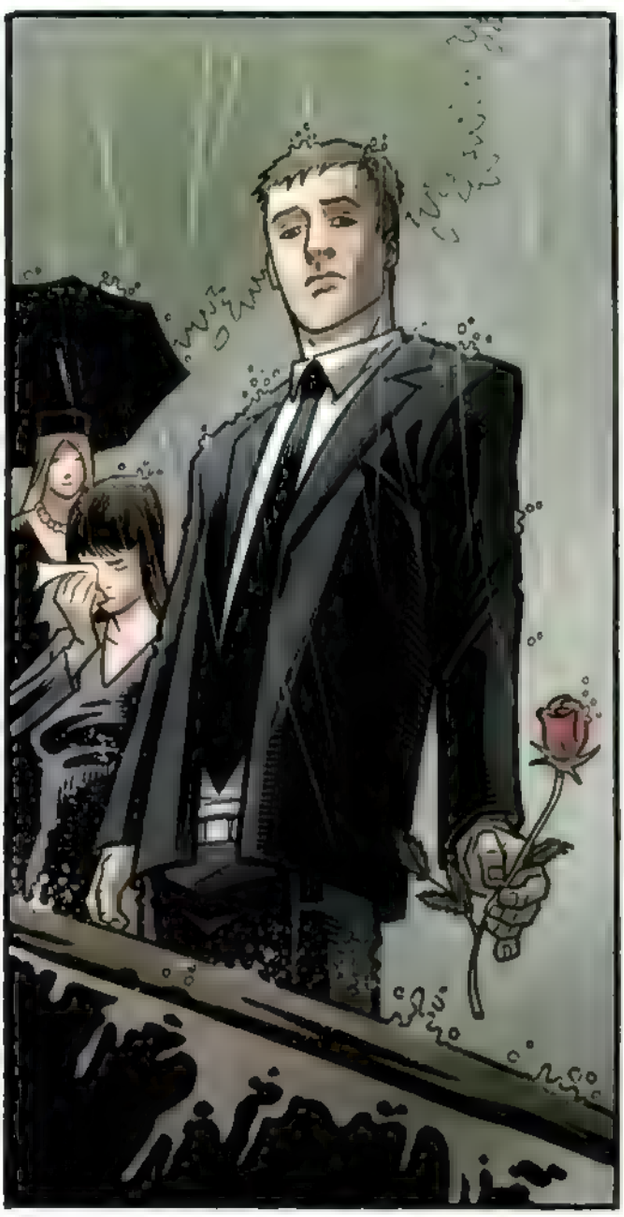
WHAT?!
JUST GO WITH IT-- TRUST ME.
BLAM! BLAM!
BRAKKA! BRAKKA! BRAKKA!
YEAH! THIS'LL DO!
TOLD YOU.
SCATTER! MOVE!
THEY'LL CUT YOU TO RIBBONS!
SPRAGG! SPLURT! SPLURT!

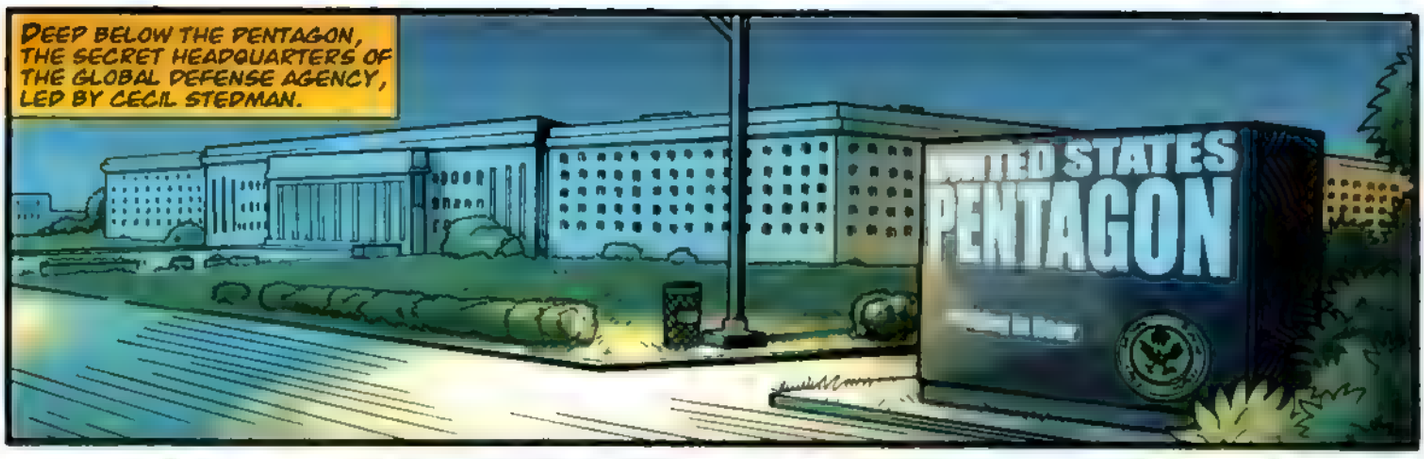
CHLOE-- LOOK OUT!
WHUMP!
ARE YOU INSANE?!
KRAKK!
I AM ELDER BROOD! YOU SHOULD FEAR ME!
TELL ME WHY THE ELDER HAS SENT YOU HERE-- WHAT DOES HE WANT?!
WROKK!
THE HERD IS THINNING-- WE MAY JUST WIN THIS.
I DOUBT IT'LL FEEL MUCH LIKE A WIN.
RRAKK RRAKK RRAKK!
OUR EFFORT IS WASTED HERE! GO! RETREAT WHILE YOU STILL LIVE!
I'LL DISTRACT THEM FROM YOUR ESCAPE!

THE ELDER WANTS YOU DEAD! THAT IS ALL WE KNOW.
THAT IS ALL WE NEED TO KNOW.
IF HE WANTS YOU DEAD--YOU WILL BE DEAD.
NOT TODAY... BUT SOON.
WRAHH!
THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING.
SHOULD WE PURSUE? SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE UP.
GARY?

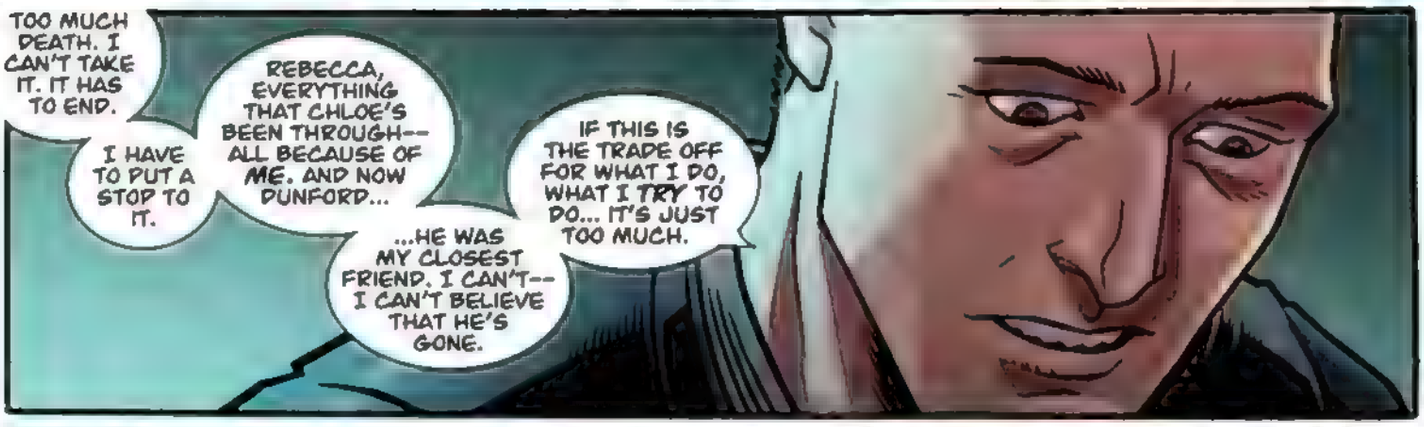

NO.
LET THEM GO...






DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON, THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY, LED BY CECIL STEDMAN.
PENTAGON

I JUST CAN'T DO IT, NOT ANYMORE.
IT'S TOO MUCH... IT'S JUST TOO MUCH FOR ME TO HANDLE.
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, GARY?


TOO MUCH DEATH. I CAN'T TAKE IT. IT HAS TO END.
I HAVE TO PUT A STOP TO IT.
REBECCA, EVERYTHING THAT CHLOE'S BEEN THROUGH--ALL BECAUSE OF ME. AND NOW DUNFORD...
...HE WAS MY CLOSEST FRIEND. I CAN'T--I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT HE'S GONE.
IF THIS IS THE TRADE OFF FOR WHAT I DO, WHAT I TRY TO DO... IT'S JUST TOO MUCH.

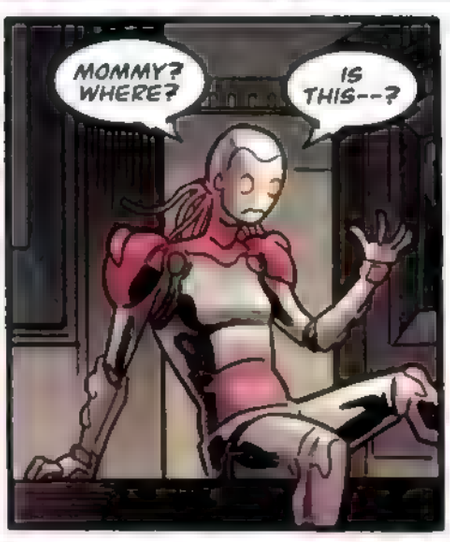
I'M SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS, BUT WITH ALL DUE RESPECT... IF QUITTING IS WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, THAT'S SIMPLY NOT REALISTIC.
NOT NOW.
ZECHARIAH IS STILL OUT THERE, THREATENING YOU AND YOUR DAUGHTER.
I'LL FORGIVE HIS MEANS OF ESCAPE, MIND YOU, BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT YOU'VE PUT YOURSELF IN HARM'S WAY.

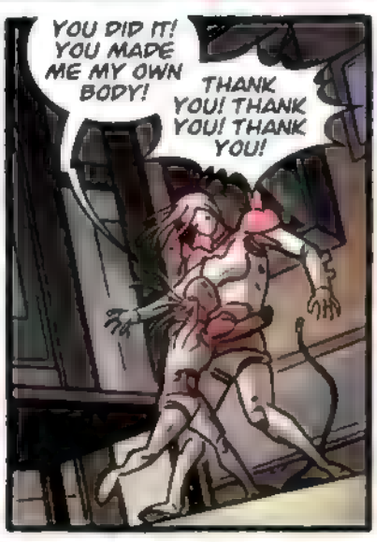
NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT DUNFORD'S KILLERS ARE STILL OUT THERE--AND COULD ALSO STRIKE AT ANY MINUTE.
YOU HAVE NO CLUE WHAT THEY WANT--OR IF YOU DISAPPEARING WILL MAKE THEM GO AWAY.
YOU HAVE TO SEE THIS THROUGH.

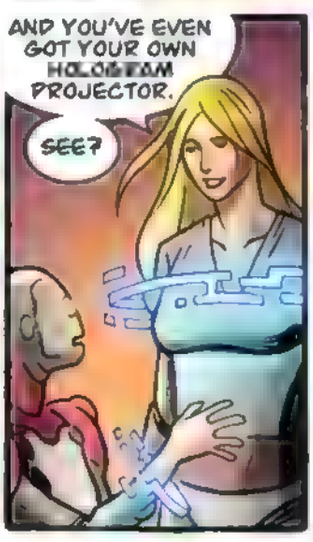
NO.
I WANT TO RUN.
SUPERHERO... WHAT WAS I THINKING? WHEN DOES IT END? YOU NEVER RUN OUT OF BAD GUYS, THINGS JUST GET WORSE AND WORSE, MORE AND MORE COMPLICATED--DANGEROUS.
WHERE DOES IT ALL END? YOU OR EVERYONE YOU KNOW DEAD--OR BOTH.
NO, CECIL. WHATEVER THE ELDER HAS PLANNED, YOU HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH PEOPLE TO DEAL WITH IT. AND IF ZECHARIAH FINDS US--I'LL DEAL WITH HIM, BUT UNTIL THEN...
...I'M OUT.
WOW.
I NEVER PEGGED YOU FOR A COWARD.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'VE ENDURED!
NO IDEA!
THERE...
...THAT'S MORE LIKE IT.

YOU WANT TO QUIT. YOU WANT TO RUN-- HIDE FROM YOUR PROBLEMS... PUT THIS WHOLE, DIRTY ORDEAL BEHIND YOU.
AFTER WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH... I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT--BUT TELL ME THIS...
WHAT DOES CHLOE WANT TO DO?
THE MAN WHO KILLED HER MOTHER, STILL OUT THERE. THE MEN WHO KILLED DUNFORD, STILL OUT THERE.
IS SHE READY TO JUST WALK AWAY?
...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I KNOW I'M RIGHT.
DON'T PUSH IT.
CHLOE WILL NEVER LET ME WALK AWAY. NOT NOW. I HAVE TO SEE THIS THROUGH... FOR HER.
THANKS FOR THIS. I WAS--
YOU JUST LOST YOUR FRIEND. YOU'RE EMOTIONAL. IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE.
I'LL KEEP THIS BETWEEN US. DON'T WORRY.
THANK YOU.

DOWNLOAD COMPLETE.

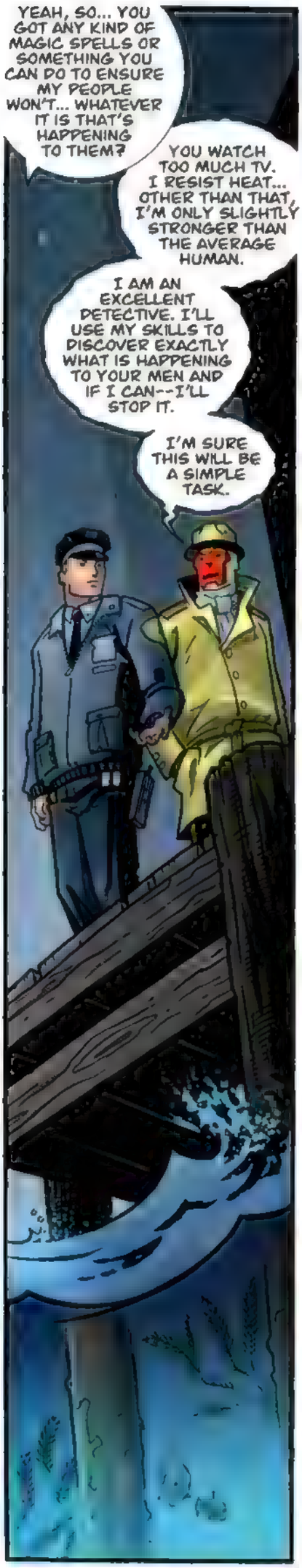

MOMMY? WHERE?
IS THIS--?


YOU DID IT! YOU MADE ME MY OWN BODY!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!


AND YOU'VE EVEN GOT YOUR OWN HOLOGRAM PROJECTOR.
SEE?

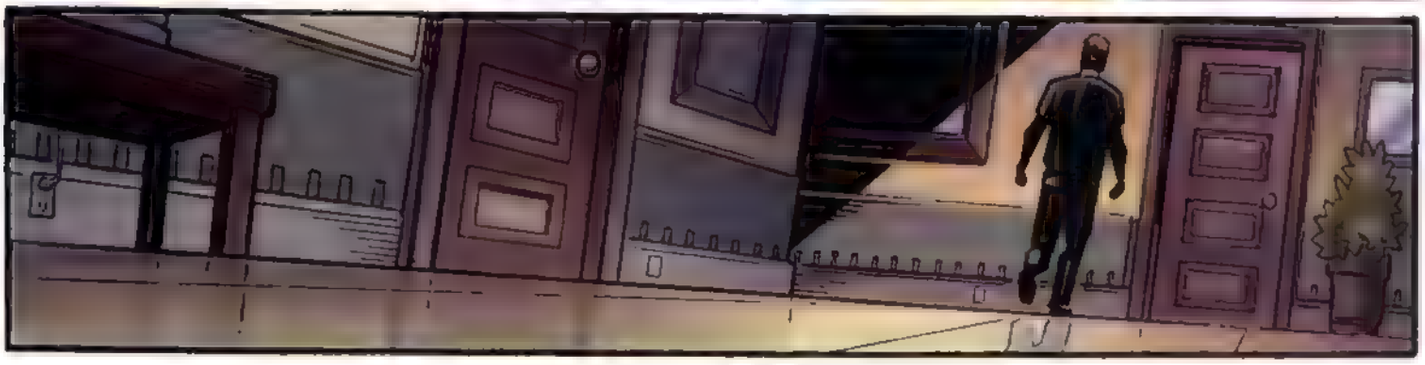
OH, MOMMY--IT'S PERFECT.
I'LL NEVER HAVE TO BE SHUT DOWN AGAIN. I CAN--
I'M SORRY I TOLD THE MAN I WAS UNHAPPY. YOU'RE NOT MAD AT ME, ARE YOU MOMMY?
NOT AT ALL, ELISE. I WAS BEING SELFISH. YOU WERE RIGHT TO COMPLAIN.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE MUCH HAPPIER NOW. WE BOTH WILL BE.

DAMIEN DARKBLOOD, DEMON DETECTIVE. THANKS FOR COMING.
YOU KNOW I HATE BEING CALLED THAT. IS THAT ANY WAY TO REPAY ME FOR MEETING YOU AT THIS UNGODLY HOUR?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I NEED YOUR HELP. I'VE GOT A... SITUATION HERE. DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT TO DO.
IT'S MORE OR LESS... BEYOND MY ABILITIES. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP.
I ASSUME YOU SAW THE GORGG INCIDENT ON THE NEWS. WOLF-MAN FIGHTING THAT THING? IT WAS ALL OVER TV.
I DID.
WELL, THAT THING GOT BUSTED UP--FELL INTO THE WATER RIGHT HERE. WHICH IS ALL FINE AND DANDY WITH ME. MORE RUBBLE IN THE EAST RIVER, BIG DEAL.
EXCEPT THAT THING WORE FRIGGIN' STONEHENGE AS A HAT. SO NOW THE MAJORITY OF THAT NATIONAL LANDMARK IS SITTING OFF THE SHORE OF MANHATTAN.
SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T SIT WELL WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.
SO THEY'RE PRETTY MUCH DEMANDING WE PULL UP THESE MASSIVE STONES AND SHIP THEM BACK TO THEM, SO THEY CAN TRY AND RESTORE THEIR TOURIST ATTRACTION.
WHICH, AGAIN-- I'M FINE WITH.
THING IS, I GOT THREE DIVERS MISSING. ANYONE GOES DOWN THERE-- DOESN'T COME BACK.
SO NOW I GOT PEOPLE REFUSING TO GO IN, NOT THAT I CAN BLAME 'EM.
HURM.


YEAH, SO... YOU GOT ANY KIND OF MAGIC SPELLS OR SOMETHING YOU CAN DO TO ENSURE MY PEOPLE WON'T... WHATEVER IT IS THAT'S HAPPENING TO THEM?
YOU WATCH TOO MUCH TV. I RESIST HEAT... OTHER THAN THAT, I'M ONLY SLIGHTLY STRONGER THAN THE AVERAGE HUMAN.
I AM AN EXCELLENT DETECTIVE. I'LL USE MY SKILLS TO DISCOVER EXACTLY WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOUR MEN AND IF I CAN--I'LL STOP IT.
I'M SURE THIS WILL BE A SIMPLE TASK.

YOU OKAY?
GETTING BY.
I'M TURNING IN, I DON'T... I'M JUST DRAINED. I HAVE NO ENERGY. I'LL BE RIGHT NEXT DOOR, THOUGH, SO DON'T WORRY.

YOU KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT.
I DON'T WANT TO BE TOO FAR AWAY--JUST IN CASE. I KNOW HE'S BEEN LYING LOW THESE LAST COUPLE WEEKS--BUT ZECHARIAH'S STILL OUT THERE--AND THE ELDER'S PACK.
I WANT YOU TO FEEL SAFE.
THAT'S NOT EVEN REMOTELY POSSIBLE AT THIS POINT.
STILL, I'M JUST ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL--JUST IN CASE.



SKREE
SH!
KRAAM!
CHLOE!
D-DAD!
DON'T WORRY, GARY. I'LL TAKE REAL GOOD CARE OF HER.
NO!

QUIT SQUIRMING! YOU'RE ONLY MAKING THIS HARDER FOR YOURSELF.
SHLOKK!
IS THAT ALL YOU GOT?!
SWOOSH!
KR-OOM!!

YOU ARE TO BE TESTED.

CODE BLUE
BIRTH OF A HERO
PART 2 OF 4
STORY & ART BY JASON HOWARD
WHERE IS THIS...?
CRAP!

WHO ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?
MY NAME IS CADE. I... I'M NOT FROM HERE.
THAT'S FOR SURE. WHAT'S WITH THE BODY PAINT AND THE JUMPING? YOU ESCAPE FROM BROADWAY?
ESCAPE? NO, I AM ON A MISSION.
RIGHT. I'M SURE IT'S A SAD STORY, BUT DID YOU BRING FOOD?

UH, SURE...
LISTEN, I NEED A PLACE TO STAY FOR A COUPLE DAYS, SOMEWHERE OUT OF THE WAY...
WELL, YOU LUCKED OUT. NOBODY COMES BACK HERE. GRAB A BOX AND FIND A SPOT WITH ALL THE OTHER CRAZY PEOPLE.
HEY BROADWAY, YOU AWAKE?
I DIDN'T SLEEP.
RIGHT. UH, WILLIE GOT STUFF TO MAKE JOE THIS MORNING. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT SOME?
THANKS.
THAT'S HOT!

YEAH IT'S HOT. ARE YOU RETARDED? YOU NEVER HAD COFFEE BEFORE?
NO...
ALRIGHT CADE, WHERE YOU FROM, FOR REAL?
ACTUALLY, I AM PRETTY SURE I AM FROM HERE. WELL, I MEAN THIS LOCATION, JUST IN BETWEEN WHAT ANYONE CAN NOTICE. MY HOME IS CALLED COREQ, IT IS ONE OF A PAIR OF WORLDS THAT TAKE UP THE SAME PHYSICAL SPACE BUT EXIST ON DIFFERENT VIBRATIONAL FREQUENCIES. I WAS ON A MILITARY MISSON TO JUMP TO THE OTHER BY CHANGING THE VIBRATIONAL CYCLE OF MY ATOMS. SOMETHING MUST HAVE GONE WRONG... I ENDED UP HERE.
THIS PLACE MUST EXIST ON A FREQUENCY THAT OUR SCIENTISTS HAVE NEVER DISCOVERED. DON'T WORRY THOUGH, I WON'T BE HERE LONG. SOMETIME SOON A FREQUENCY MODIFICATION PORTAL SHOULD OPEN NEAR ME AND I WILL RETURN HOME.
OH YEAH, YOU'RE GOING TO FIT IN PERFECT AROUND HERE.
CONTINUED...

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writer

JASON HOWARD
penciler, inker

RUS WOOTON
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FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA
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SINA GRACE
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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN created by ROBERT KIRKMAN & JASON HOWARD

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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN #24., August 2010. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2134 Allston Way, 2nd Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704.

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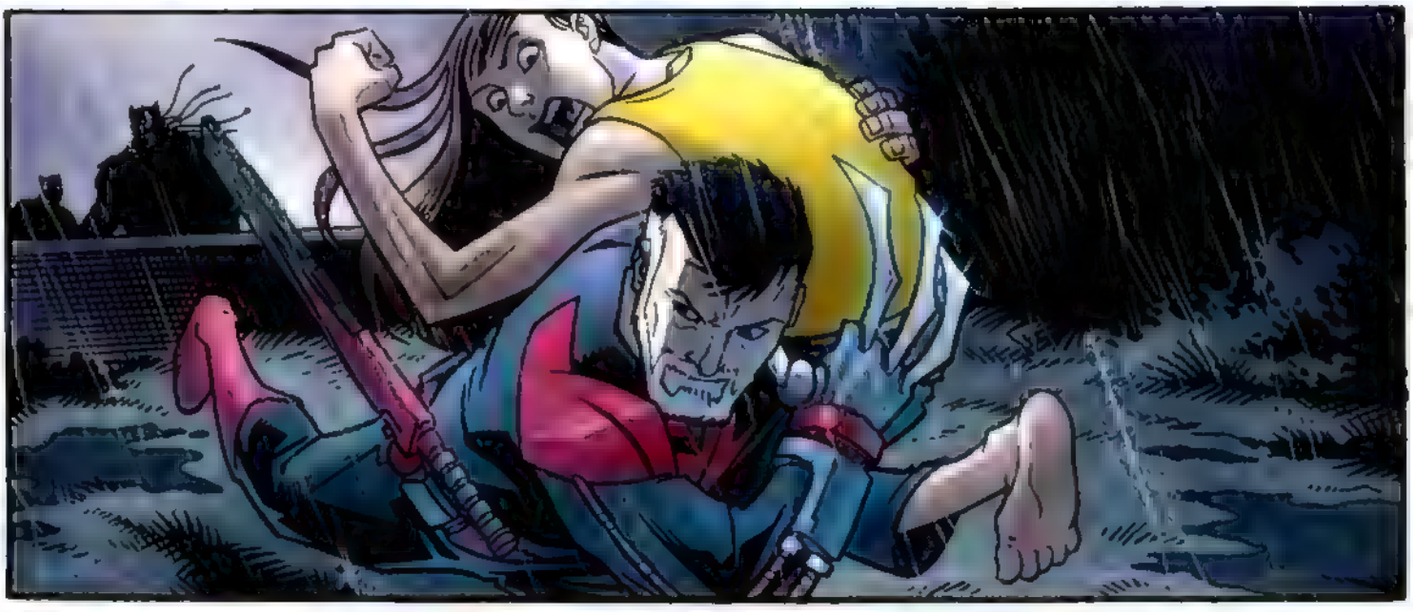
HE HAS MY DAUGHTER, ELDER. GET OUT OF MY WAY!
I HAVE COME HERE WITH PURPOSE. YOU ARE FREE OF ANY DISTRACTIONS, I HAVE INSTIGATED YOU INTO FACING ME.
ARE YOU NOT WILLING TO FIGHT? DO YOU NOT DESIRE ME DEAD FOR THE DEATH OF YOUR FRIEND--FOR ALLOWING YOUR DAUGHTER TO BE TAKEN?



I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS! HE'S GETTING AWAY!
NO!
YOU WILL BE TESTED!

I WILL NOT BE DENIED!
KRAK OOM!!
YOU WERE CHOSEN-- ALL OF THIS WAS PREORDAINED FROM THE BEGINNING.
YOUR TIME HAS COME, YOU ARE READY AND YOU WILL BE TESTED.
THAT IS THE WAY OF THINGS.

WROKK!
NO!
I DO NOT WORK FOR YOU! I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY OR WHAT YOUR PLANS FOR ME ARE! I HAVE TO SAVE MY DAUGHTER!
THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME!
YOU HAVE GROWN STRONGER---GOOD. THIS WILL SERVE YOU WELL IN THE COMING BATTLE.
BUT DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE ME. YOU WILL FIGHT ME, YOU MUST--TO PROVE YOUR WORTH, OR MINE. IT IS YOUR DESTINY.
NO! I WON'T, I--
SUBMIT!
KROOM!
NO!
I NEVER ASKED FOR THIS! NOT ANY OF IT! I DON'T WANT IT! ZECHARIAH HAS MY DAUGHTER! I HAVE TO SAVE HER!
I REFUSE TO BE YOUR PAWN!

YOU WERE NOT CHOSEN BECAUSE YOU ARE WILLING.
YOU WERE CHOSEN BECAUSE YOU ARE WORTHY.

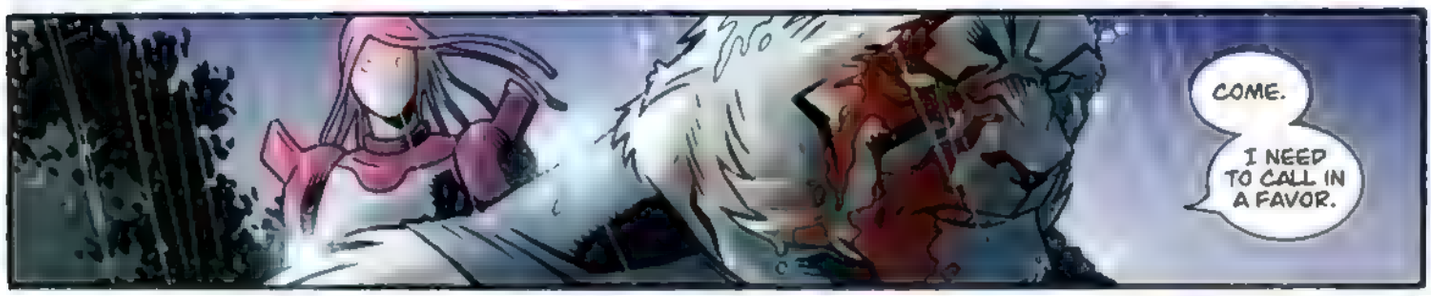
KRAK!
I WILL MAKE YOU PAY FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO MY LIFE, WHAT YOU'VE TAKEN-- BUT NOT RIGHT NOW!
ZECHARIAH HAS CHLOE AND I WON'T LET ANYTHING BAD HAPPEN TO HER!
YOU DO NOT SET TERMS TO ME.
YOU WILL--
KROOM!
=HUFF!=
=HUFF!=
YOU WILL NOT RELENT. THIS WAS THE WRONG MOVE.
I WILL GIVE YOU TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.
WHOOSH

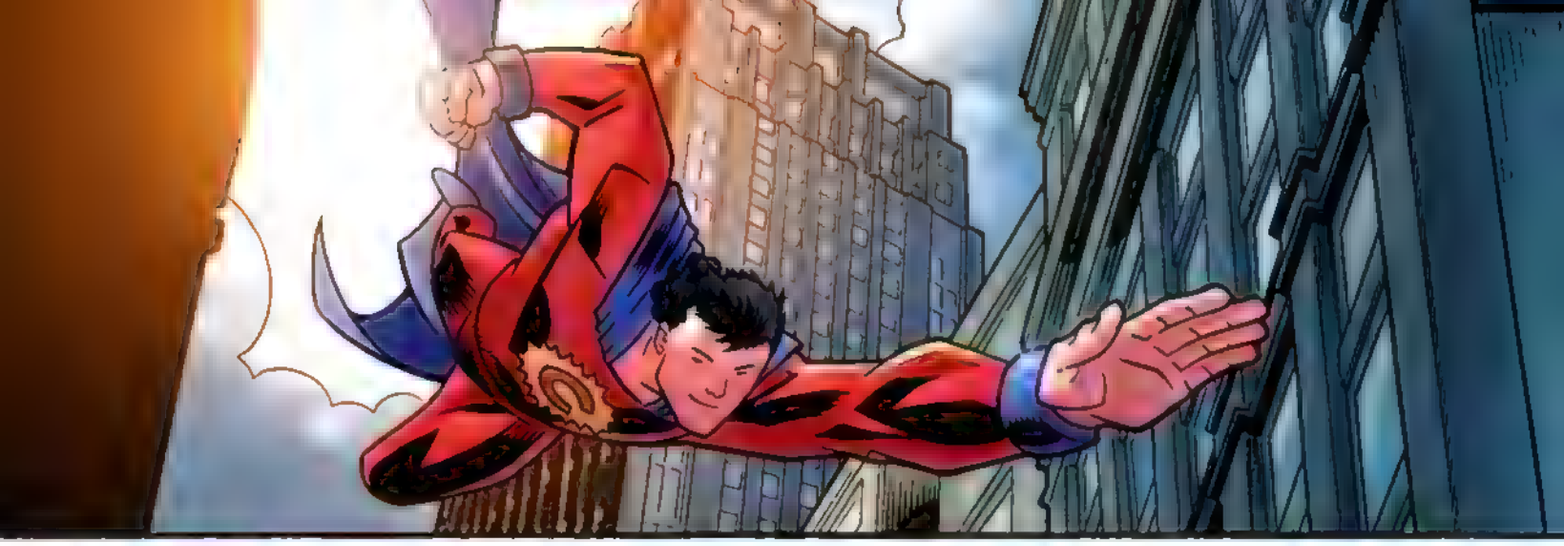
SNIFF! SNIFF!
YOU SMELL HIM?

NO.
THE RAIN IS DROWNING OUT ANY SMELLS.
ANY WAY YOU COULD TRACK HIM?

NO. THE TRACKING DEVICE I IMPLANTED IN HIS HAND IS STILL INACTIVE. IT WOULD TAKE TIME FOR ME TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO REACTIVATE IT REMOTELY.
I COULD TRY A FEW OTHER THINGS, BUT IT WOULD TAKE--

WE DON'T HAVE TIME.


COME.
I NEED TO CALL IN A FAVOR.



WE DON'T COME OUT FOR JUST ANYONE, DARKBLOOD. WE'RE HERE BECAUSE WE TRUST YOU.
THIS BETTER BE GOOD.
A CALL INTO CAPES INCORPORATED IS NOT LIGHTLY MADE. I ASSURE YOU THIS WILL BE WORTH YOUR TIME.

THE CREATURE, GORGG, THE ONE THAT WOLF-MAN FOUGHT AND DEFEATED HERE WEEKS AGO WAS NOT ACTUALLY DEFEATED.
IT LIVES.
IT'S BROKEN APART INTO SMALLER VERSIONS OF ITSELF AND IT'S LURKING BELOW.

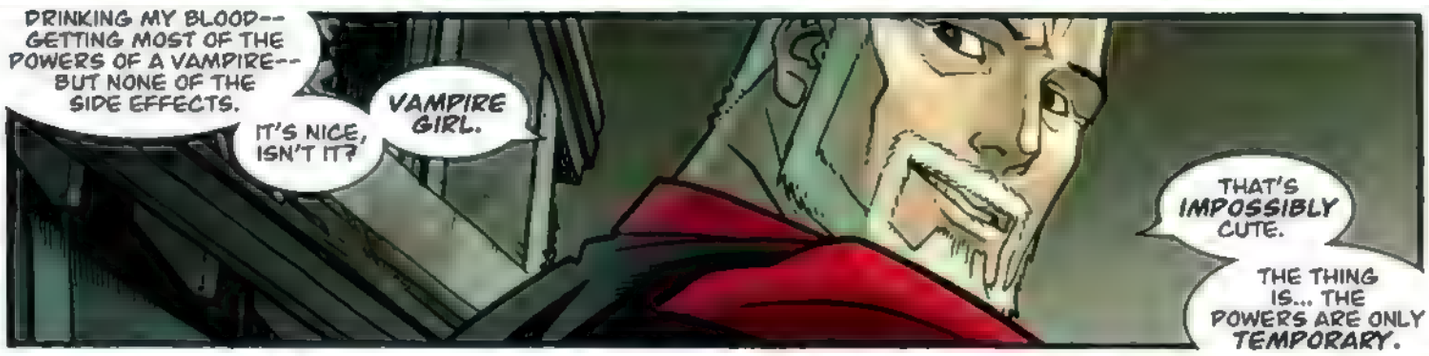
WHAT'S IT DOING?

WHEN WOLF-MAN STOPPED IT, HE SHATTERED IT INTO COUNTLESS SMALLER PIECES--IT'S BEEN FORMING INTO SMALLER VERSIONS OF ITSELF MADE FROM THOSE PIECES.
IT'S A SLOW PROCESS... I THINK IT'S WAITING UNTIL ALL THE PIECES OF THE LARGER CREATURE FORM INTO SOMETHING MOBILE. IF THIS THEORY IS CORRECT, MY CALCULATIONS HAVE IT EMERGING IN A MATTER OF...

...SECONDS.

OKAY, BOYS AND GIRLS--GET READY.
IT'S TIME TO MAKE THE DONUTS.

HE'S OUT THERE--HE'S GOT MY DAUGHTER AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO?
I NEED YOU TO FIND HER, CECIL!
PENTAGON
I DIDN'T SAY THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO. OUR SURVEILLANCE TEAM IS WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK LOOKING FOR SIGNS OF WHERE SHE COULD BE.
WE KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT ZECHARIAH... HE COULD BE ANYWHERE.
WE'RE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN, GARY. WE'LL FIND YOUR DAUGHTER.
I'M SORRY-- I DON'T MEAN TO LOSE MY TEMPER--IT'S JUST...
...I CAN'T LOSE HER, TOO.
UH... GUYS.
ZECHARIAH'S TRACKING BEACON JUST BECAME ACTIVE AGAIN.


DRINKING MY BLOOD--GETTING MOST OF THE POWERS OF A VAMPIRE--BUT NONE OF THE SIDE EFFECTS.
IT'S NICE, ISN'T IT?
VAMPIRE GIRL.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLY CUTE.
THE THING IS... THE POWERS ARE ONLY TEMPORARY.

OF COURSE YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT. YOU HAVE TO BE FEELING THE POWER FADE BY NOW.
HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL--TO HAVE THE POWER AND THEN FEEL IT SLIPPING AWAY? IS IT TORTURE?
WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO KEEP FROM LOSING YOUR NEWFOUND ABILITIES?
WHAT WOULD YOU SACRIFICE?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?

I'M GOING TO DRAIN ALL OF THE BLOOD FROM YOUR BODY.
SHORTLY BEFORE YOUR LIFE SLIPS AWAY--I'M GOING TO TURN YOU INTO A VAMPIRE.
AND I'M GOING TO MAKE DADDY WATCH. HE SHOULD BE HERE VERY SOON.

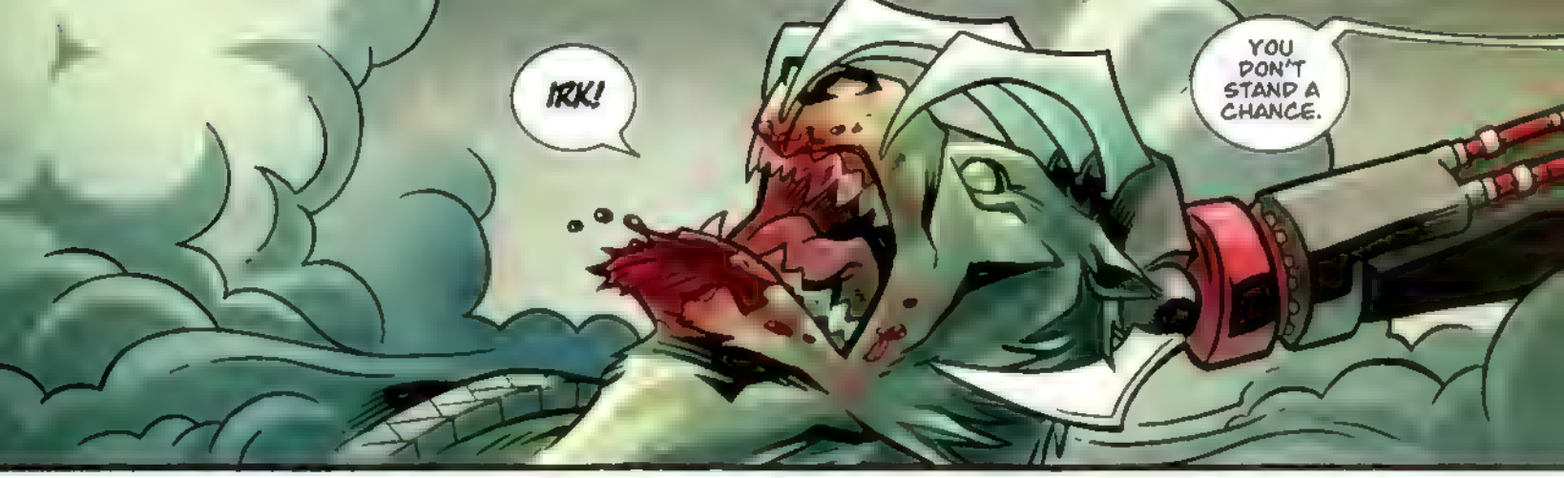
JUST DO IT.
NICE TRY.
YOU KILLED MY MOTHER, BUT THAT DOESN'T FREE MY FATHER FROM BLAME. HE STILL BROUGHT YOU INTO OUR LIFE.
TURN ME NOW, BEFORE HE GETS HERE--I'LL HELP YOU TAKE HIM DOWN.
YOU REALLY EXPECTED ME TO FALL FOR THAT?
IT WAS WORTH A SHOT.
KRAK!
STUPID GIRL.
WHATEVER SCARS I GIVE YOU BEFORE I TURN YOU WILL BE WITH YOU FOR ETERNITY!

ZECHARIAH!
DIDN'T EXPECT YOU SO FAST. TELEPORTATION, EH? I SEE YOU'VE MADE EVEN MORE FRIENDS SINCE I--

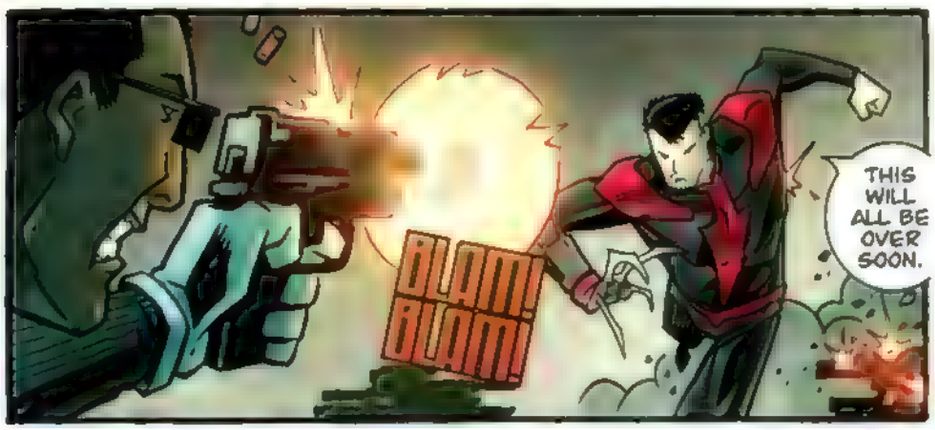
CH 8
WHOA.

SHRAKK!
SVAOSH!
ARRGH!
KRAK!
CHOMP!
SHOULD WE... STOP HIM?
NO... LET HIM DO THIS. HE NEEDS THIS.

SHRIPPP!
SKULLPP!
DAMN.
YOU DIDN'T REALIZE I WAS JUST GIVING YOU A WARM UP?


IRK!
YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE.

I'VE PLANNED THIS DOWN TO THE SMALLEST DETAIL.
KROOM!


BLAM! BLAM!
THIS WILL ALL BE OVER SOON.

SERIOUSLY, JUST WATCH!
RRAOOK!
SVOOSH!

I'VE DONE MY RESEARCH. I KNOW YOUR WEAKNESSES. THIS ENDS BADLY FOR ALL OF YOU!
THOKK!

HUH?

THUDD!
OH, NO...
YOUR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS ARE UP, GARY. THE TIME OF SUCCESSION IS UPON US.

STAND AND FACE ME.
THIS IS WHERE YOUR LIFE ENDS...
...OR BEGINS.

FANG-MAIL

Send letters to
Robert Kirkman, P.O. Box 1870, Richmond, KY 40476
or e-mail, wolfman@funkotron.com

Holy crap.

Hello all, this is Sina Grace, Robert's not-so-good editor.

It's been a few days between issues, we are aware. The excuse? Robert prefers the best-looking book over a rushed-looking book that is drawn by seven different artists (and I have experienced the latter... it is not cute).

And also, Robert doesn't always get the script to Jason as fast as he should, and frankly Ryan and Charlie are fast enough to pick up Robert's slack most of the time... Jason is only monthly, so he's not. -Robert

Boy-howdy, are we going to do our best to get you the final issue in a timely manner. You won't wait too many moons for that, I swear.

Now, onto letters...

All Hail Kirkman,

Great run on Wolf-Man, kept me intrigued the whole series, so much potential, it is really...astounding. I'm going to miss it. I do think this is a great test run for Science Dog, am I right? Is that the big project you're working on? What better way to show there is a market of the k-9 variety Looking forward to it... the best place is IMAGE-ination!

Lance

PS. a great title for Science Dog's letter age...Kibbles and Bits

There is nothing I would love more than a Science Dog ongoing. To shut you up, there will be a one-shot coming out in August, and a new backup in Invincible 75.

The Science Dog one-shot is a reprint of the Science Dog chapters from issues 25 and 50 of Invincible, it's only new if you've just been reading Invincible in collected form. -Robert

Lance, go start a fan page called Kibbles and Bits so that way I can show it to Robert and tell him we need to make a Science Dog plush doll (cue furry praise).

Robert Kirkman,

I have been reading your book since the beginning and I honestly think it is your best book right now (except for The Walking Dead of course) and it's a shame that it won't be going past 25, but I think I'll be very happy about how it ends. I think issue 23 was by far my favorite issue so far, Mecha-Maid turning into a turret and strapping on to hunter's arm was freakin' awesome! And last but not least I liked the death of Dunford, and although it broke my heart to see him go, I think it was a great way to add tragedy to the story. Anyway please write back

Dexter Everett

Dexter, rather than write you back, I would prefer to have your letter published!

I never cared much for Dunford, either. He was such a tampon. That's a lie, actually. There are few things I cannot forgive Robert for doing, and killing Dunford is one of them.

Actually, that was a lie, too. I can take it or leave it.

Kirkman and Co.,

Legacy: Part Three of Five was a riot cover to cover... I absolutely loved it. Dunford's demise can't even really sink in for us before our hero is besieged by scores of tribal werewolves... The Hunter/Mecha-Maid Fusion (and the subsequent carnage) was pretty suite here too, but all the fantastic visuals right out the gate all pale in comparison when you look at the series of "silent" panels immediately following the attack (very nice Jason)... That is some heavy stuff right there, and as per usual, FCO and Ivan Plascencia provide the luster and finish that brings it all together in its glorious, gritty goodness

Now I realize I may sound like a broken record here (having said this in one way or another in just about every letter I've written), but anything to do with Mecha-Maid absolutely rocks (I'm very much looking forward to if and when she meets a certain Robot we all know and love). Elise receiving her own body from her mother was very cool (akin to letting one's child "fly from the nest", I guess), I hope to see her more in the future provided she doesn't get pwn3d in the next two months. Seeing Damien Darkblood make an appearance is always a treat too, I love how straight and to the point he always seems to be... He fits in perfectly with this book, I'm glad you worked him in before the Grand Finale in a few short months

I, too like the Mecha-Maid stuff. Robert was totally going to "pull the plug" on her a long time ago, but I was like "No Robert, don't! Mecha-Maid is awesome and fans love her!" and he was like, "What? I'm Robert Kirkman, my ideas are GOLD!" and I was like "PLZ?" and he was like "O OK."

Robert and I have great text message conversations.

The preceding conversation never actually happened. I've always loved Mecha-Maid. -Robert

I'm certainly looking forward to the penultimate chapter of *The Astounding Wolf-Man*, but this issue just reminds me of how much I will be missing... I am glad to see all the long woven plot threads (and even some newer ones) coming together for what I'm sure will be a great finish... You know what they say about All Good Things.

Random Suggestion, btw Any chance we will ever see an *Astounding Wolf-Man* Tee Shirt? I'm thinking just Black w/ the Red Logo, front and center? I would totally rock it...

You would look good in it, yes. We would even have you model it like American Apparel, where you're doing a lewd pose atop a bathroom sink.

Jason, I love the Code Blue backups, brotha, and I'm looking forward to *Sea Bear & Grizzly Shark* next month... Sina, welcome to the Jungle, baby, we've got fun and games!!!!!

Thanks! Glad to be here!

Robert, the Stitch Blue suits you, literally. I hope you can make it out to B-More this August, but be advised it may be a little hot for your furry attire.

He also has Fred Flinstone. Not really for his Furry nights out, but it's a lot more breathable.

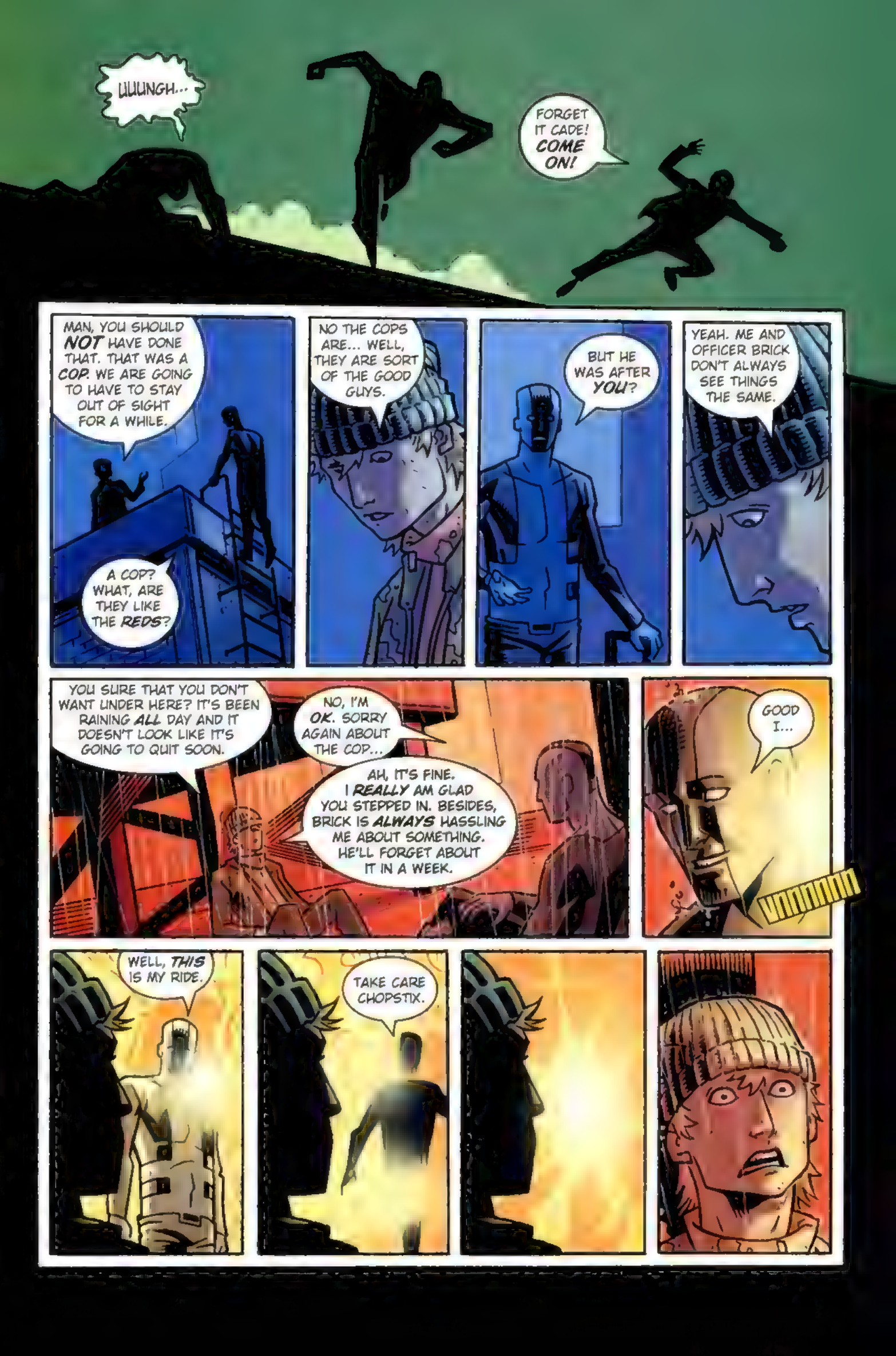
See ya next time, when the Elder takes Gary to school!!!!

LOVE, BLUE

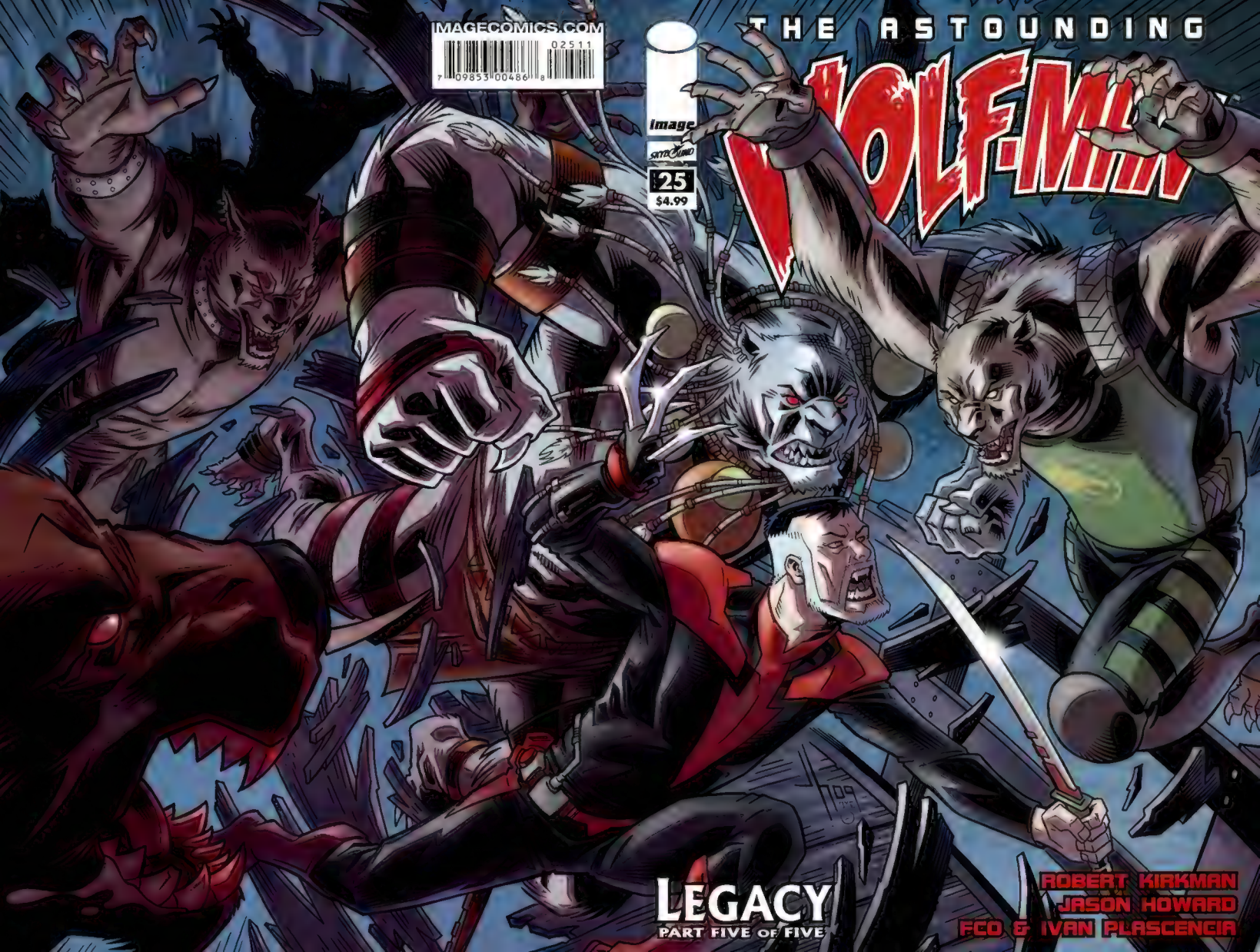
BIRTH OF A HERO
PART 3 OF 4

STORY & ART BY JASON HOWARD

YOU AND YER BOYS WENT TOO FAR LAST NIGHT, CHOPSTIX!
NOT MY BOYS... I DON'T RUN WITH THEM NO...
LET HIM GO!
KRAKKK!!!


UUUNGH...
FORGET IT CADE! COME ON!
MAN, YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE THAT. THAT WAS A COP. WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO STAY OUT OF SIGHT FOR A WHILE.
A COP? WHAT, ARE THEY LIKE THE REDS?
NO THE COPS ARE... WELL, THEY ARE SORT OF THE GOOD GUYS.
BUT HE WAS AFTER YOU?
YEAH. ME AND OFFICER BRICK DON'T ALWAYS SEE THINGS THE SAME.
YOU SURE THAT YOU DON'T WANT UNDER HERE? IT'S BEEN RAINING ALL DAY AND IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S GOING TO QUIT SOON.
NO, I'M OK. SORRY AGAIN ABOUT THE COP...
AH, IT'S FINE. I REALLY AM GLAD YOU STEPPED IN. BESIDES, BRICK IS ALWAYS HASSLING ME ABOUT SOMETHING. HE'LL FORGET ABOUT IT IN A WEEK.
GOOD I...
VNNNNN
WELL, THIS IS MY RIDE.
TAKE CARE CHOPSTIX.

ELYN, NO...
CONTINUED...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THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN

ROBERT KIRKMAN
writer

JASON HOWARD
penciler, inker
colorist pages 25-28

RUS WOOTON
letterer

FCO & IVAN PLASCENCIA
colorists

SINA GRACE
editor

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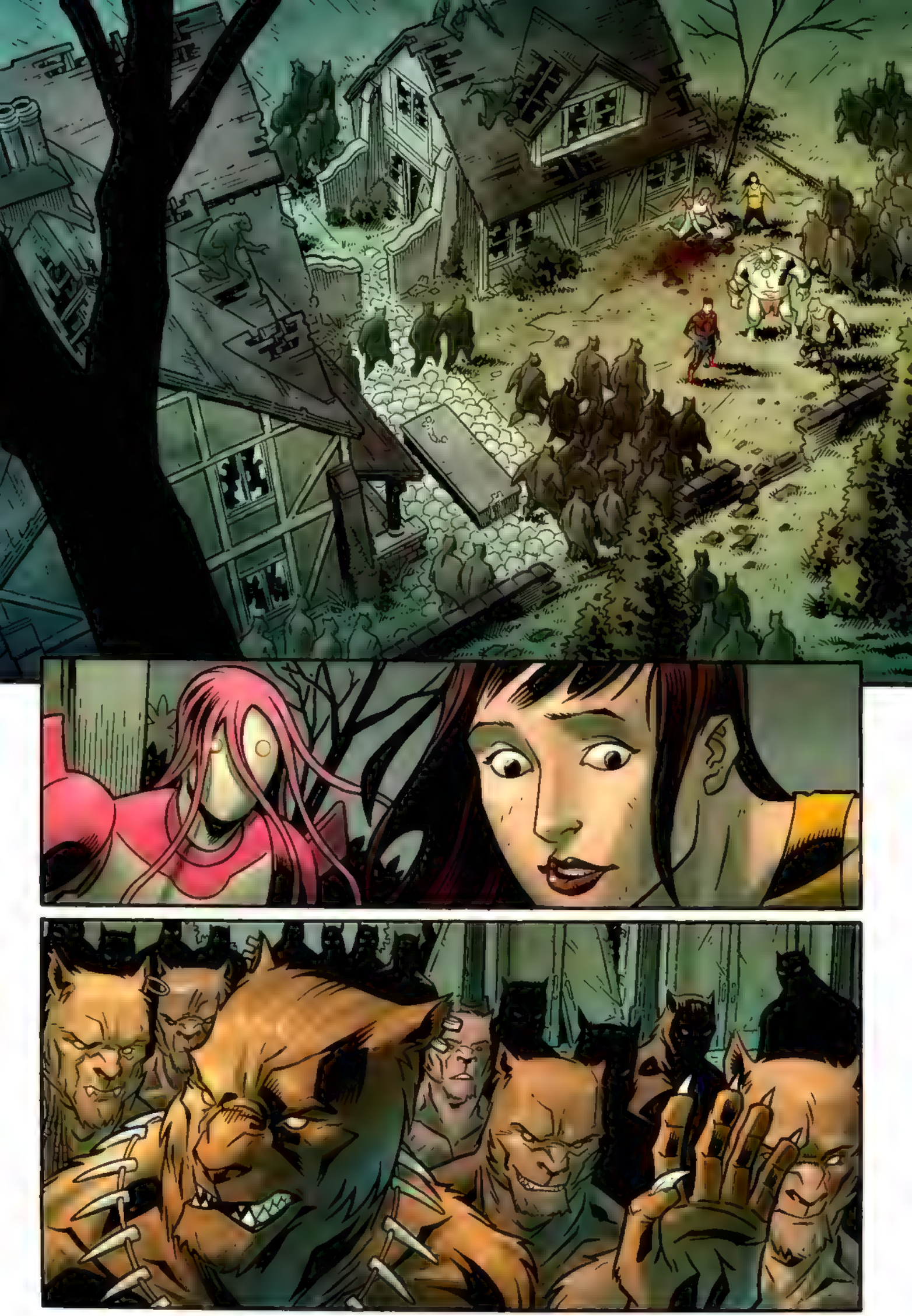
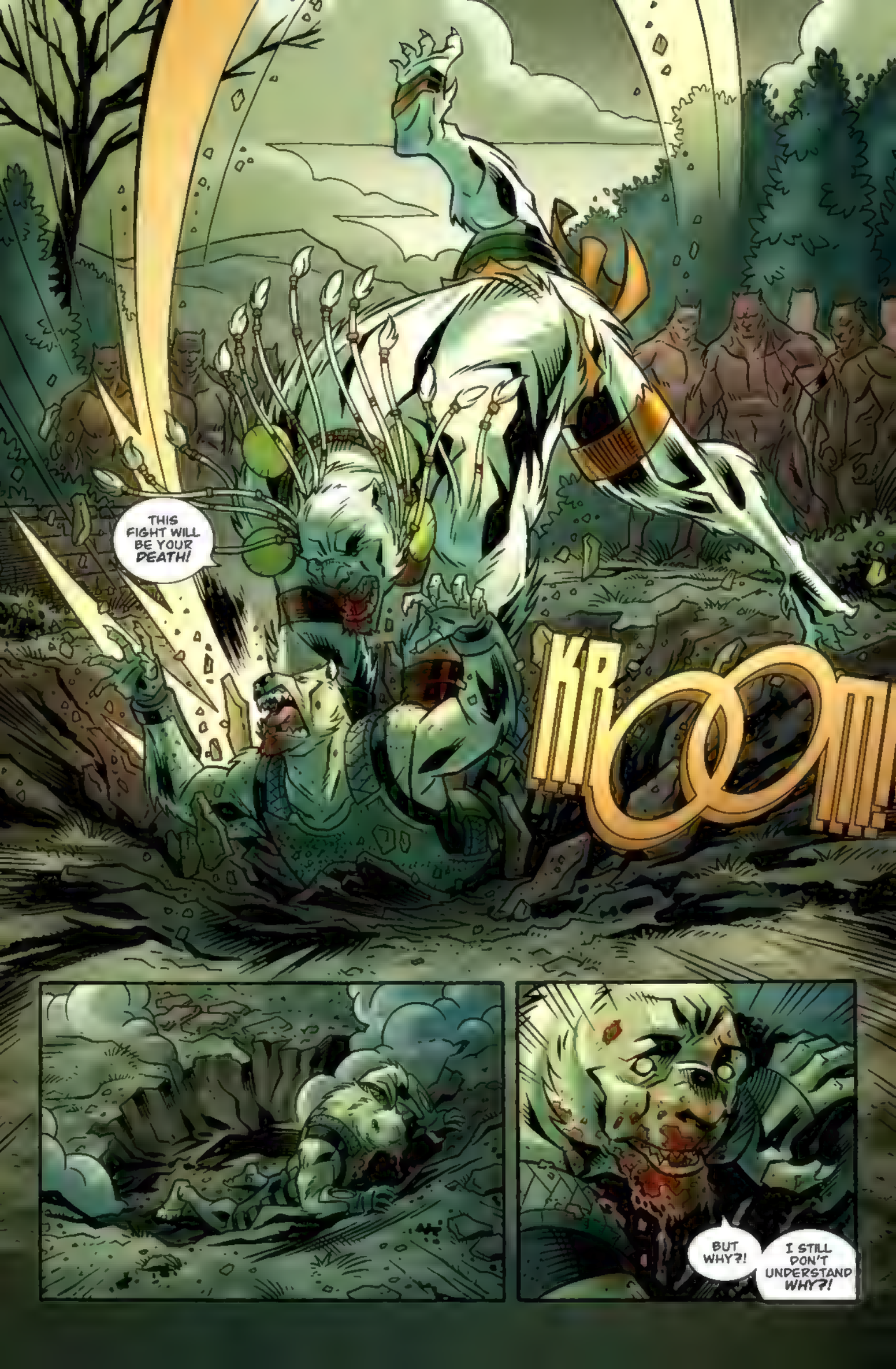


I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU WANT OR WHY YOU'RE HERE. STAND ASIDE, ELDER--THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
GARY, LISTEN TO ME, THIS MAY BE OUR ONLY CHANCE--WHATEVER OUR DIFFERENCES, WE CAN SETTLE THEM LATER, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW DANGEROUS HE IS.
TOGETHER WE COULD KILL HIM, TOGETHER WE--
THIS CONFLICT DOES NOT CONCERN YOU, VAMPIRE.

SNIGG!
OH, NO--
NO...
KRAKKLE!
UURK!

DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON, THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY, LED BY CECIL STEDMAN.
UNITED STATES PENTAGON
THE PAIN, WHY DO YOU MAKE US SUFFER THIS UNENDING PAIN?! WE HUNGER!
WE--!
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU I'M NOT TO BE DISTURBED IN HERE?!
I'M VERY SORRY, SIR-- IT'S JUST... THE ACTIONEERS...
THEY'RE NOT VAMPIRES ANYMORE.

I REFUSE TO TOLERATE HIS INTERFERENCE ANY LONGER.
PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE, GARY HAMPTON-- YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR DAUGHTER, THEY ARE IN NO DANGER HERE. THEY ARE FREE TO LEAVE IF THEY WISH.
MY INTEREST IS IN YOU.
IF THEY INTERFERE IN THE FIGHT TO COME, THEIR SAFETY WILL NO LONGER BE GUARANTEED.
IT IS THEIR CHOICE TO MAKE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- WHAT HAPPENED? WHY DO YOU WANT TO FIGHT ME ALL OF A SUDDEN? YOU SAY YOU NEED TO TEST MY WORTH. FOR WHAT?
WHAT DO I NEED TO BE WORTHY OF?
EVERYTHING!
NO!
WE'RE OUT-NUMBERED! DO AS HE SAYS-- DON'T INTERFERE! THIS IS MY FIGHT!
RIGHT YOU ARE--


THIS FIGHT WILL BE YOUR DEATH!
KR
OOM!
BUT WHY?!
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY?!

YOUR TRANSFORMATION WAS NO ACCIDENT.
I DID NOT HAPPEN UPON YOU BY CHANCE. I'D BEEN FOLLOWING YOUR LIFE FOR YEARS.
WHEN I WAS FIRST TURNED I WAS DRIVEN BY MY LUST FOR POWER. YOU HAVE BUT A FRACTION OF THE POWER I POSSESS.
BUT FOR ME IT WAS NOT ENOUGH--I WANTED MORE AND I WOULD STOP AT NOTHING TO GET IT.
MY RISE TO POWER HAS NEARLY DESTROYED OUR KIND--WE ARE NEARLY ALL THAT REMAIN.
I CAME FROM NOTHING, BORN IN BLOOD, DELIVERED TO THIS WORLD. I AM CORRUPTED. I USED MY NEWFOUND POWERS TO BRING ME STATUS, TO LORD OVER THOSE BENEATH ME.
KROOM!
MAKE NO MISTAKE, ALL THOSE YOU SEE HERE SERVE ME, UNQUESTIONING--BUT THEY DO NOT DO SO OUT OF LOVE... OR RESPECT... IT IS THEIR FEAR OF ME THAT KEEPS THEM LOYAL.
AND I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF IT.
YOU WERE ALWAYS INTENDED TO BE MY REPLACEMENT.
YOU WERE CHOSEN.
WROOM!

WHEN I WAS TURNED, THERE WAS NOT ONE ELDER BUT MANY. WE WERE RULED BY THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS.
IN A TIME FORGOTTEN, WE COMMANDED THE MOVEMENT OF CIVILIZATION ON EARTH.
WE WERE ALL-POWERFUL... BUT I WAS NOT CONTENT.
ONE BY ONE-- I MURDERED THE COUNCIL... UNTIL I WAS THE ONE TRUE ELDER REMAINING.
ALONE, I NOT ONLY CONTROLLED ALL OF OUR KIND-- BUT ALL OF MAN.
BUT I DID NOT LEAD WELL. MAN EVENTUALLY TURNED AGAINST US AND WE WERE DRIVEN INTO HIDING.
I MAINTAINED CONTROL OVER OUR KIND THROUGH FEAR-- AND OVER TIME--LEGEND. BUT MY FOLLY HAD FOREVER SCARRED US--WE WOULD FOREVER LIVE OUR LIVES IN HIDING.
I TOLD OF A TIME OF GATHERING THAT WOULD COME--WHEN WE WOULD RECLAIM OUR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THIS WORLD...
...AND I BEGAN A LIFE OF SECLUSION, SHAMED BY MY ACTIONS, WHAT I'D ALLOWED MY AMBITION AND GREED TO BRING UPON US ALL.
THERE I REMAINED... UNTIL I FOUND YOU.

IT WAS YEARS AGO WHEN I FIRST ENCOUNTERED YOU. AT FIRST A FAMILY MAN LIKE ALL THE OTHERS.
I OBSERVED YOU DURING YOUR LEISURE TIME. I WATCHED YOU FOR MANY YEARS. SOMETHING ABOUT YOU STUCK WITH ME.
YOUR COMPASSION FOR THOSE LESS FORTUNATE...
YOUR DEVOTION TO YOUR MATE...
YOUR COURAGE AND COMMITMENT TO YOUR FAMILY...
I EVENTUALLY OBSERVED YOU IN YOUR OWN ENVIRONMENT. I LEARNED THAT YOU WERE ALREADY A MAN OF GREAT POWER.
YOU WERE *PERFECT*... YOU WOULDN'T BE CORRUPTED BY THE POWER OF BEING AN ELDER AS I WAS.
IT WOULD HOLD NO ALLURE FOR YOU... NO ADDED MYSTIQUE.
SO I MADE MY CHOICE...
...AND I STRUCK.

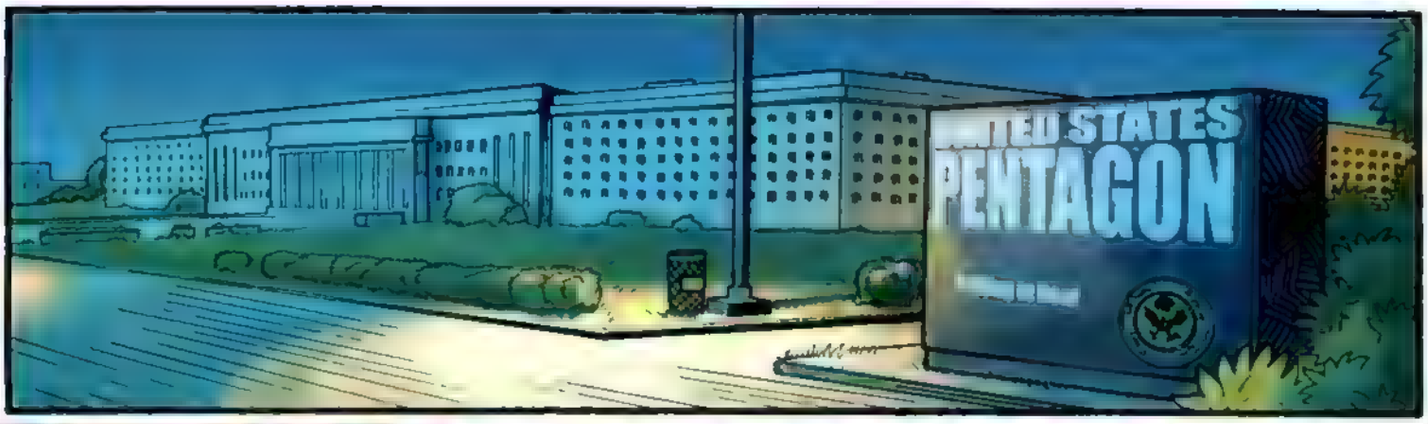
YOU WANT ME TO SUCCEED YOU AS ELDER?! THAT'S IT? THEN WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME!
TO PROVE YOUR WORTH!
THIS BATTLE IS NOT FOR ME!
IT IS NOT FOR YOU!
IT IS FOR THEM!
I WANT YOU TO BEAT ME. I LONG FOR THE RELEASE OF DEATH--I'VE LIVED FAR TOO LONG AND MY TIME AS ELDER HAS BEEN SQUANDERED.
I AM A FAILURE AND I DESERVE TO DIE.
BUT IF YOU CANNOT BEST ME IN COMBAT--YOU ARE NOT WORTHY OF MY TITLE.
KRAK!
THEY WILL NEVER FOLLOW YOU IF THEY DO NOT RESPECT YOU--FEAR YOU.
YOU WILL SEE, YOU--!
THIS IS INSANE!

STAY FOCUSED-- USE YOUR HATRED OF ME TO DRIVE YOU!
I CAUSED THIS! YOUR LIFE IS IN RUINS, YOUR WIFE DEAD, YOUR DAUGHTER CHANGED, YOUR FRIEND MURDERED BY MY ORDER!
USE IT!
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!
CAN'T YOU SEE?!
I'VE RUINED US!
YOU'RE OUR LAST HOPE, GARY HAMPTON-- I'VE CHOSEN YOU TO REDEEM US.
YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF AIR... YOU STILL NEED TO BREATHE, YOU KNOW.
FIGHT BACK. FIGHT!
DON'T LET THIS BE THE END--!
PLEASE, DON'T--!

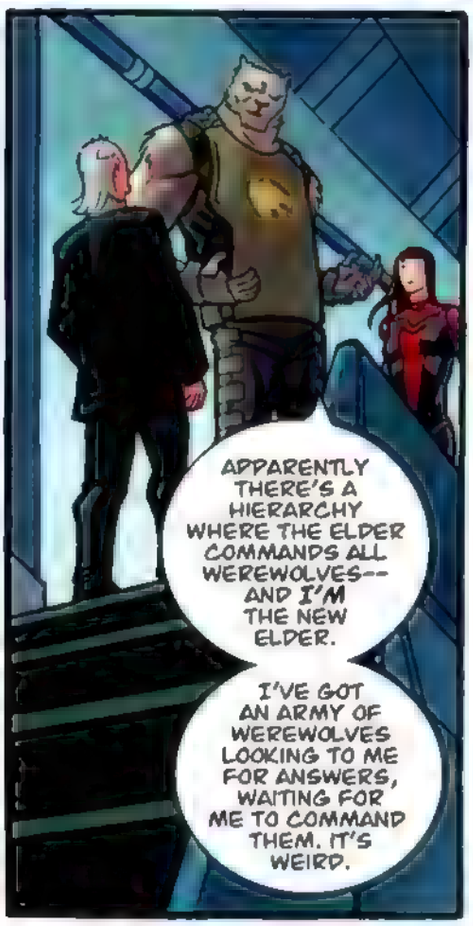
OFF ME!
SWOOSH!!
GOOD...
...
=HUURGGH!=
VERY GOOD....
NOW YOU JUST... HAVE TO SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH...
...FOR ME TO BLEED OUT.
=GURRGLE=
THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU TRAINED ME TO DO--YOU COULD TURN, HEAL YOURSELF--AND TURN BACK.
YOU SAID YOU COULDN'T LET ME WIN.
NOT...

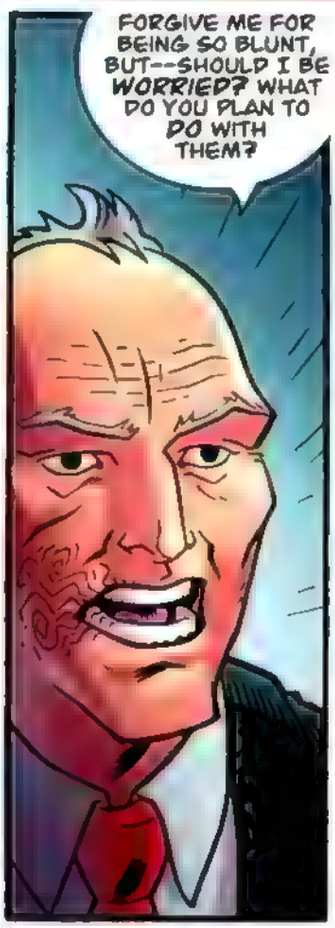
MY AGE... BODY'S TOO WEAK. I'D DIE IF I TURNED...
...CAN'T-- CURSE WON'T LET ME.
IT'S OVER, YOU'VE LOST TOO MUCH BLOOD, YOU CAN'T--
GOT YOU NOW...
GOT--
GOT... IT'S DONE...
DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES I DID...
HELP THEM-- ALL OF THEM. GIVE THEM THEIR LIVES BACK... IT WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS... IN THE SHADOWS...
WE WERE ONCE GREAT--AND WE CAN...
...WE CAN BE...
...AGAIN.

UH...
COOL.


PENTAGON

"KING OF THE WEREWOLVES?"
ESSENTIALLY, YES.


APPARENTLY THERE'S A HIERARCHY WHERE THE ELDER COMMANDS ALL WEREWOLVES--AND I'M THE NEW ELDER.
I'VE GOT AN ARMY OF WEREWOLVES LOOKING TO ME FOR ANSWERS, WAITING FOR ME TO COMMAND THEM. IT'S WEIRD.


FORGIVE ME FOR BEING SO BLUNT, BUT--SHOULD I BE WORRIED? WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH THEM?

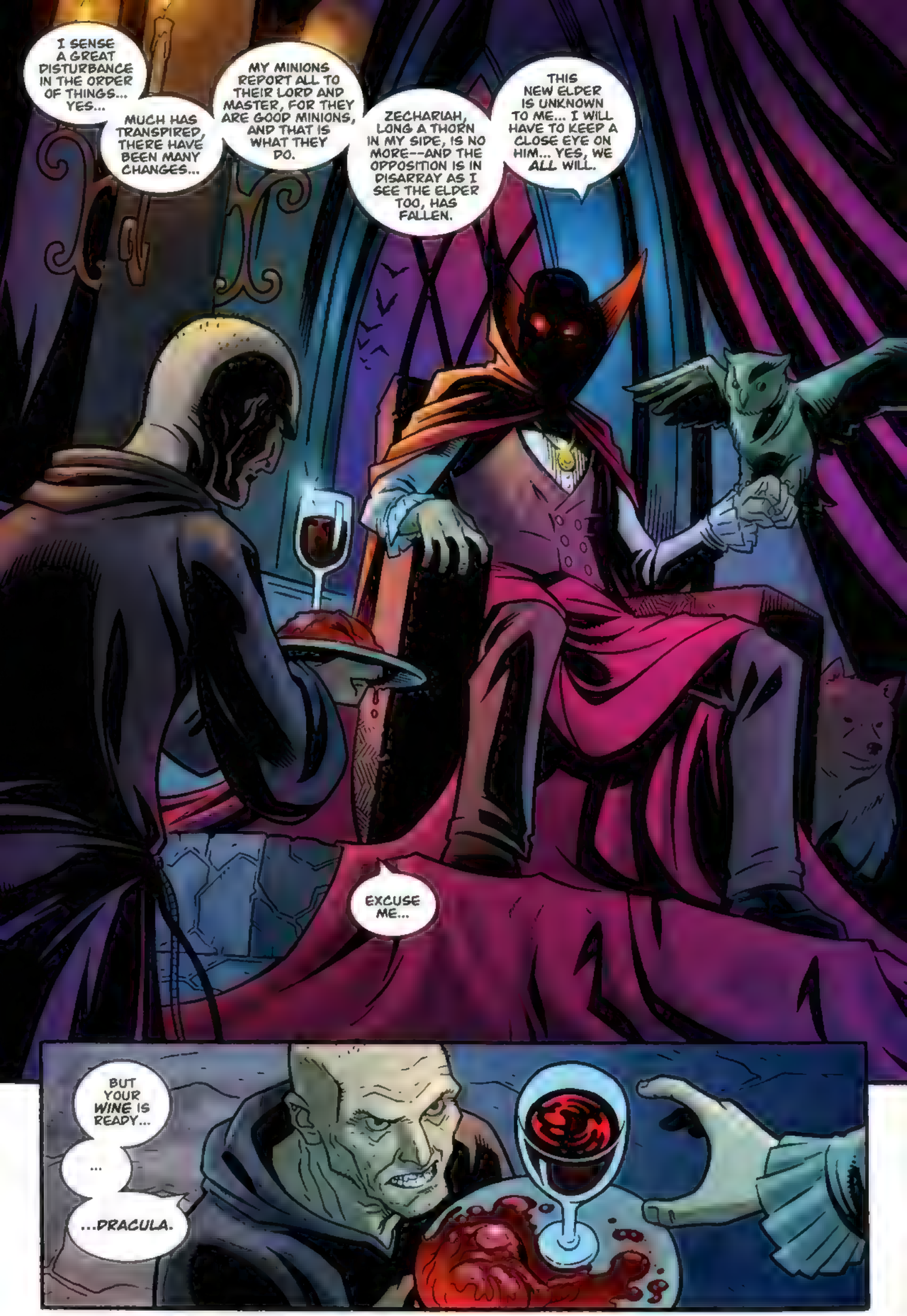
I'M GOING TO MAKE THEIR LIVES BETTER.
I'M GOING TO USE THEM TO MAKE EVERYONE'S LIVES BETTER. I'M GOING TO PUT THEM TO WORK.
THESE PEOPLE ARE LOOKING TO ME TO DO THE RIGHT THING. IT'S TIME SOMEONE MADE THEIR LIVES WORTH LIVING--GAVE THEM A PURPOSE. YOU'LL SEE. THIS WILL BE A GOOD THING, CECIL.

I KNOW, I KNOW. I MISSED YOU GUYS SO MUCH.
I CAN'T WAIT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO ELISE.
FOLLOW ME, I'D LIKE TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU BEFORE YOU LEAVE.
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT, CECIL?
BE DISCREET.
YOUR FATHER TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR SITUATION. YOUR POWERS BEING ONLY TEMPORARY...
I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU.
THIS BLOOD SAMPLE WAS TAKEN FROM ZECHARIAH WHILE WE HAD HIM IN HOLDING. WHEN WE WERE TRYING TO RESTORE THE ACTIONEERS.
SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO KEEP YOUR POWERS GOING FOR A WHILE.
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

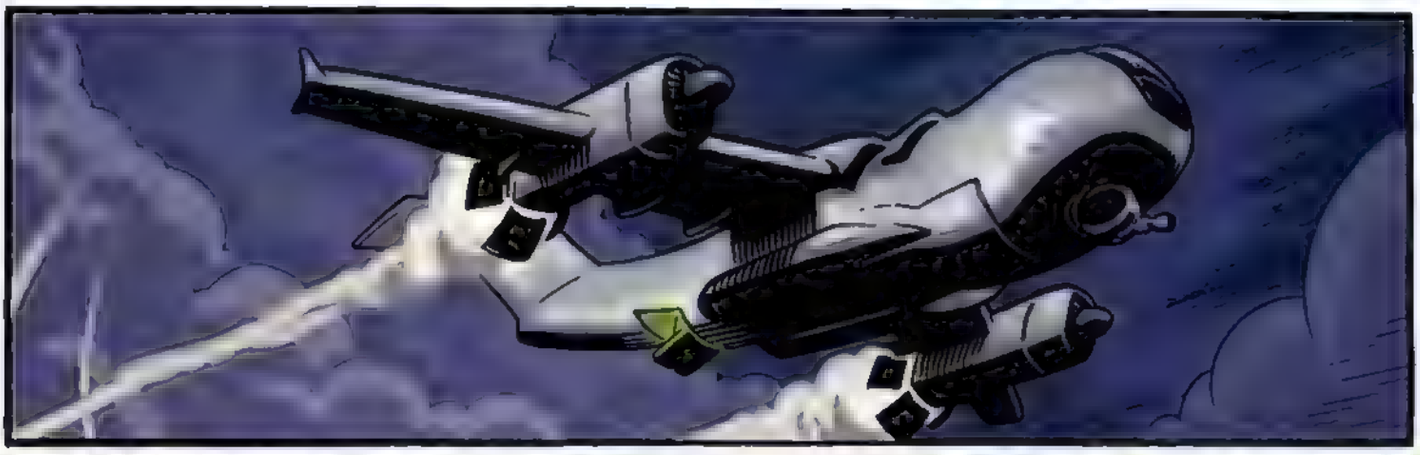
CYPRESS HILL CEMETERY.
I'M STARTING A NEW JOURNEY, REBECCA... THINGS ARE CHANGING YET AGAIN.
HUSBAND, SUPERHERO, WIDOWER, FUGITIVE, HERO AGAIN... I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT'S NEXT FOR ME.
WHAT I DO KNOW IS...
...I WISH YOU WERE HERE WITH ME.
I'M SO SORRY, I--
COME ON, DAD. WE SHOULD BE GOING. THEY'RE WAITING FOR US AT THE HOUSE.

YOU'RE RIGHT, CHLOE. THANKS.
LET'S GO.
I HOPE YOU DON'T BLAME HIM, MOM.
HE DOES THAT ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF US.

JACOBSEN, I HOPE THINGS ARE GOING WELL HERE.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU.
YOU AS WELL, GARY, WHAT YOU'VE DONE HERE IS A MARVEL. SO MANY OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE NEVER EVEN LIVED INDOORS. TO TAKE THEM IN... YOU CAN'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO THEM...
...AND HOW MUCH THEY REGRET THINGS THAT WERE DONE UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE PREVIOUS ELDER...
THINGS THAT CANNOT BE UNDONE.
DAMAGE WAS DONE FROM BOTH SIDES.
ALL IS FORGIVEN-- IT HAS TO BE IF THIS IS GOING TO WORK.
THEY WILL BE HAPPY TO HEAR THAT.
I UNDERSTAND THE NORTHERN WING HAS BEEN CONVERTED TO LIVING QUARTERS, ARE YOU SURE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE DUE WITHOUT A THEATRE ROOM?
I THINK I'LL MANAGE.
I SEE YOU'VE FOUND MANY MORE WILLING TO JOIN OUR CAUSE. THANKS FOR BRINGING THEM. I WANT ALL TO KNOW THEY ARE WELCOME HERE.
ALL I KNOW OF ARE HERE, WE ARE GATHERED, AND WE ARE WAITING FOR YOUR COMMAND. WHAT IS NEXT FOR US?
EVERYTHING.


I SENSE A GREAT DISTURBANCE IN THE ORDER OF THINGS... YES...
MUCH HAS TRANSPIRED, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CHANGES...
MY MINIONS REPORT ALL TO THEIR LORD AND MASTER, FOR THEY ARE GOOD MINIONS, AND THAT IS WHAT THEY DO.
ZECHARIAH, LONG A THORN IN MY SIDE, IS NO MORE--AND THE OPPOSITION IS IN DISARRAY AS I SEE THE ELDER TOO, HAS FALLEN.
THIS NEW ELDER IS UNKNOWN TO ME... I WILL HAVE TO KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON HIM... YES, WE ALL WILL.
EXCUSE ME...
BUT YOUR WINE IS READY...
...
...DRACULA.

EPILOGUE.



OKAY, EVERYONE--LISTEN UP.
THESE THINGS TOOK DOWN AN ENTIRE CAPES ASSAULT TEAM A FEW WEEKS BACK--THIS IS GOING TO BE A REAL TEST FOR OUR CAPABILITIES.
BE PREPARED.
ON TOP OF THAT, WE'VE GOT EXACTLY ONE HOUR OF MOONLIGHT LEFT, SO WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO WRAP THIS ONE UP QUICK.
LINE UP--PREPARE TO DEPLOY!

HERE WE GO!

WOLFCORPS--
ATTACK!
THE END?

CODE BLUE

BIRTH OF A HERO

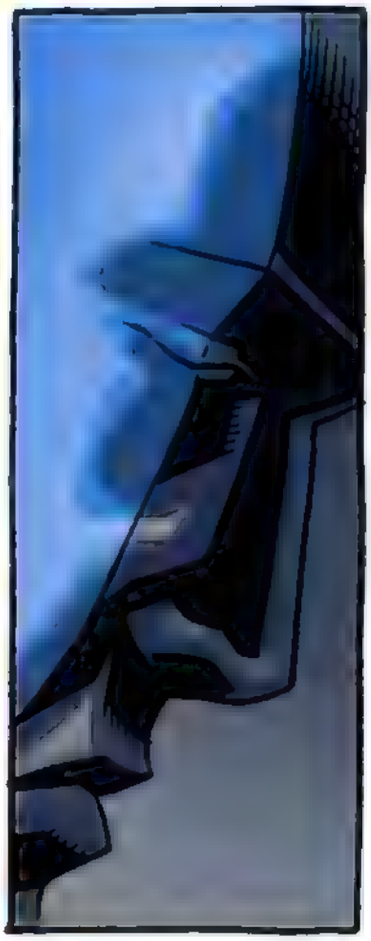
PART 4 OF 4

STORY & ART BY JASON HOWARD

COME ON ELYN. WE HAVE TO GO! I'LL HELP YOU. QUICK, WE CAN GET BACK THROUGH THE FREQUENCY JUMP.

OH CADE... I'M SORRY.. I... IT'S TOO LATE... I'M DYING... YOU'RE THE LAST OF US...
JUST GO... PLEASE... GO...

I'M SORRY.



BRAKKKK!
BRAKKKK!
BRAKKKK!
BRAKKKK!
BRAKKKK!

BRAKKKK!
BRAKKKK!
BRAKKKK!
BRAKKKK!

SOMEBODY IS QUITE THE ACTRESS...
I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD FEEL LIKE THIS. CADE... HE WAS...
ELYN, IT HAD TO BE DONE THIS WAY. THERE ARE OTHER, NATURAL, PATHS BACK HERE FROM EARTH. CADE HAS TO BELIEVE THAT HIS WORLD IS DEAD SO THAT HE WON'T LOOK FOR A WAY HOME.
I STILL DON'T SEE WHY WE COULDN'T HAVE JUST BROUGHT HIM IN. TOLD HIM ABOUT EARTH AND THE WAR AND YOUR PLAN.
NO! HE'S NOT READY YET. I HAD TWO VISIONS. IN ONE BOTH OUR WORLDS WERE DESTROYED. IN THE OTHER THEY WERE UNITED IN PEACE. CADE IS THE FULCRUM, THE KEY TO OUR FUTURE. BUT HIS POWER IS STILL DORMANT.
TOMM, HOLOGRAM.
YES SIR. POWERING IT DOWN.
VEEEP.

THE REAL RED INVASION WILL BEGIN SOON. BECAUSE OF OUR EFFORTS TO INFILTRATE THE BLUE ARMY, I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE SURE THE WAR DOESN'T END IN MUTUAL DEVASTATION. BUT IT WILL BE VICIOUS.
WE CAN NOT RISK CADE BEING ONE OF THE EARLY CASUALTIES. WE NEED HIM OFF THE BOARD UNTIL HE'S READY. THE SOURCE WORLD IS THE PERFECT INCUBATOR FOR HIM. THE FREQUENCY DIFFERENCE WILL TRIGGER AN EVOLUTION. AND ONCE HE HAS FULLY MATURED WE WILL BRING HIM HOME.
TRUST ME ON THIS. NOW, LET'S GO BETRAY OUR RED COMRADES, AND MAKE SURE THERE IS A WORLD LEFT FOR CADE TO SAVE.
HEY CADE, YOU WANT SOME SOUP?
NO. THANKS.
FEELING OK MAN? YOU HAVEN'T EATEN IN DAYS...
MY WORLD IS GONE. MY FRIENDS ARE GONE... I... I HAVE NOTHING LEFT.
THAT STUFF HITS US ALL SOMETIMES. THE THINGS WE USED TO LIVE FOR... WHAT OUR LIVES USED TO BE. IN TIME YOU'LL FIND A NEW REASON...
YEEARGH!!!
THAT SOUNDED LIKE CHOPSTIX...

I AM TELLING THE TRUTH! I DIDN'T GIVE YOU GUYS UP.
COME ON, ADRIAN... PUT THE GUN...
CADE! YOU'RE BACK!
THE END.